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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO, Israel Reportedly on Verge of Direct Talks *[AFP]* 1
'Arafat Confirms PLO Option for Confederation *[Algiers VOP]* 1
'Ashrawi Discusses Confederation, Christopher Tour *[Jerusalem International]* 1
Says Talks in 'Critical Phase' *[Cairo International]* 2
PLO's 'Abd-al-Shafi Views Prospects for Peace
[Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE 21 Jul] 3
Ten Factions Urge Withdrawal From Talks *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Hamas Leader Discusses Current Issues, Modern State *[Algiers Radio]* 5
FLN Letter to HSC Outlines Basis for Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Network Supplying Arms To Terrorists Dismantled *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Kuwaiti Envoy Meets Kafi 21 Jul, Makes Statement *[Algiers TV]* 5

Egypt

Mubarak Accepts Presidential Nomination for 3d Term 6
Addresses People's Assembly 21 Jul *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Delivers July Revolution Speech *[Cairo Radio]* 7
NPUG Opposes Assembly's Nomination of Mubarak *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Security Forces Apprehend 25 'Terrorists' *[MENA]* 10
Foreign Minister Musa on Lebanon, Peace Process *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Jul]* 11
U.S.-Imposed World 'Totalitarian System' Feared *[AL-AKHBAR 18 Jul]* 12

Morocco

'Clear Message' to Polisario on Options Available *[London AL-HAYAH 21 Jul]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Minister Denies Plans To Increase Oil Output *[SPA]* 14
Eritrean President Arrives on Official Visit *[SPA]* 14
Meets With King Fahd 20 Jul *[SPA]* 14
Holds News Conference *[Riyadh TV]* 14

Yemen

Chief of Staff Reportedly Tenders Resignation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Decree Establishes Higher Elections Committee *[Sanaa Radio]* 15

IRAQ

INA Reports on Security Council Meeting on Blockade 16
UN Urged To Reassess Security Council Charter *[INA]* 16

ISRAEL

Arab MK Meets Officials Ahead of 'Arafat Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Rabin Says Talks With PLO Not Authorized *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 22 Jul]* 17
Peres on Chances for Progress in Peace Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 17
Hogg Says UK Supports U.S. Role in Negotiations 18
Reaffirms Stance to Peres, Beilin *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 18
Meets With al-Husayni *[Jerusalem TV]* 19
Urges Acceptance of Interim Plan *[AFP]* 19
Rabin Urges Increased Jordanian Role *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Egyptian Envoy Delivers Mubarak Message to Rabin *[Jerusalem TV]* 19
Head of Christian Community in Gaza Detained *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for Official Visit to Greece *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20

LEBANON

Al-Hariri: Government Preoccupied With South *[Beirut Radio]* 21
Security Council Asked To Renew UNIFIL Mandate *[Beirut Radio]* 21
Israelis Reportedly Withdraw Reinforcements *[Beirut Radio]* 21
Resistance Regains Position; Fighting Continues *[Beirut Radio]* 21
Israeli Soldier Reported Killed in Hizballah Attack *[AFP]* 21

SOUTH ASIA

India

Police Fire on Congress-I Supporters; 9 Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 22
Death Toll Rises to 12 *[Delhi Radio]* 22
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ends Fast Following Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 22
Human Rights Allegations Against Army Rejected *[Delhi Radio]* 22
Pentagon Report on Security Forces, Terrorism Lauded *[Delhi Radio]* 22
First Joint Commission Meeting With Kazakhstan 21 Jul *[Delhi Radio]* 23

Iran

Velayati Receives Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister *[Tehran TV]* 23
Shams on Tajikistan Developments *[IRNA]* 23
Border Market Project With Turkmenistan Inspected *[Tehran Radio]* 24
• Ambassadorial Post to Uzbekistan Announced *[SALAM 28 Jun]* 24
Joint Iran-Turkey Security Committee To Meet *[IRNA]* 24
Bosnian Ambassador Warns Against Partition Plan *[IRNA]* 24
DPRK Envoy Denies Negotiations With Israel *[IRNA]* 25
Commentary Urges Strategy Toward U.S. 'Weak Points' *[KEYHAN 12 Jul]* 25

Nepal

Communists Suspend 'Agitation' Following Natural Disaster *[AFP]* 26

Pakistan

Reports on PRC Missile Deal Said 'Baseless' *[Islamabad TV]* 26
Indian Operations in Kashmir Seen 'Escalating' *[Islamabad TV]* 27
Daily Alleges Mosad Has 'Free Hand' in Kashmir *[THE MUSLIM 21 Jul]* 27
Editorial Condemns U.S. Arrest of Egyptian Cleric *[NAWA-I-WAQT 12 Jul]* 28
Spokesman on ICO Efforts for Peace in Bosnia *[Islamabad TV]* 28
Netherlands To Provide 700 Million Rupees in Aid *[Islamabad TV]* 28
Official on 'Important Changes' in Election Rules *[THE NEWS 21 Jul]* 29
Commanders Conference Views Army Role in Elections *[Islamabad TV]* 29

Palestinian Affairs

PLO, Israel Reportedly on Verge of Direct Talks

NC2107143893 Paris AFP in English 1427 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Tunis, July 21 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel are on the verge of direct talks, a top aide to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said here Wednesday [21 July].

Nabil Sha'th, Arafat's political advisor, said high-level discussions between the PLO and the Israeli government had already taken place in Milan, Italy, and Washington. He gave no dates.

In Milan, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, a member of the PLO executive committee and head of its information department, met six high- ranking officials of Israel's ruling Labour party, he said.

The two sides were "on the verge of embarking on direct negotiations," Sha'th told AFP in Tunis, where the organisation has its political headquarters.

He also said he met Israeli MPs and government advisors in Washington, where Israel negotiates with Palestinians from the occupied territories as part of the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

Following the lifting of an Israeli ban on contacts with the PLO in January, "all that remains is for (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin to publicly lift his ban on the senior leadership of the PLO," said Sha'th.

He played down Israeli denials that meetings had already taken place with the organisation, saying the Jewish state did not want names to be disclosed.

'Arafat Confirms PLO Option for Confederation

LD2107183593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] President and Commander Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday confirmed the option of the PLO to set up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation after the emergence of the independent Palestinian State.

President Brother Abu-'Ammar said that the objective that the Palestinians are seeking is to establish an independent Palestinian state whose capital is Jerusalem, with the final aim of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation in accordance with the voluntary and free choice of the fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian people.

This statement came in a message that brother President Abu-'Ammar sent by telephone to the al-Najah University students in Nabulus and broadcast through loudspeakers in the university campus.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said that the Palestinians have been taking part in the peace negotiations out of their deep conviction in peace, so that the enemy may understand that we want a just peace and not surrender. There is no one among us who would squander even one iota of the homeland's soil or the soil of Jerusalem. Rabin and the one who stands behind him—America—should understand this.

He called on Palestinians to strengthen national unity. He also called on them to continue the uprising and resistance in all its forms against the enemy until victory and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

'Ashrawi Discusses Confederation, Christopher Tour

JN2107180393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Interview with talks delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi by Emile Khaz'al; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khaz'al] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi: A newspaper said today that a delegation of the members of the Palestinian side was about to leave for Amman to resume talks on confederation. Is this true?

['Ashrawi] There is no such decision or plan for a delegation to travel for that purpose. Of course, there are contacts on technical issues. Specialists are discussing the relevant technical issues.

[Khaz'al] Why is the issue of confederation discussed whenever the negotiations reach an impasse?

['Ashrawi] We began discussions on confederation a while ago. In fact, the Palestine National Council adopted the decision in 1988. Now, decisions are being implemented and reactivated within the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement of 1991 to consider the dimensions, details, and structure of confederation from the political point of view regarding the final solution and from the practical point of view regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination until the final stage.

[Khaz'al] But, Jordan does not seem to be interested in the issue, does it?

['Ashrawi] In fact, Jordan has responded positively. However, the position is that when the time is right, confederation will be established through a free decision by both people, perhaps after a referendum is held by both peoples.

[Khaz'al] Dr. Hanan, some people from the West Bank say the differences over confederation remind them of two hunters arguing about who gets the bear's skin before they even see a bear.

['Ashrawi] First, confederation is not a reality. It has not been proposed as an alternative. It is a continuation of political discussions, so it is not an alternative to the independent Palestinian state. It is only a confederal

relationship between two politically independent entities, which have separate national identities. So, there is a misunderstanding of the nature of confederation, and perhaps, it is sometimes mistakenly taken to be a Jordanian solution or option, without a Palestinian state. It is not an alternative to a state. Rather, it is a relationship, including the Palestinian state after independence.

[Khaz'al] Regarding Christopher's coming regional tour, do you expect further useless tours and talks?

['Ashrawi] Of course, there is that possibility, because the real fault rests with two sources. The first is the Madrid framework and Israel's preconditions damaging Palestinian rights. The second is the U.S. stand, which is completely biased toward the Israeli position. There is also a third fault, which is Israel's intransigence and its refusal to deal with basic issues positively or to comply with the terms of reference of the peace process. All this makes it difficult to make progress or reach a negotiating breakthrough, even during Christopher's tour. But if he intends to act positively and creatively outside this framework and to deal with the requirements of the process in light of the reasons blocking progress, then progress may be made.

[Khaz'al] Finally, we have to ask about the idea of Gaza First. Where are we with that?

['Ashrawi] The idea of Gaza First was projected by the Israeli side in a propagandized way rather than in a studied official or political way. It was put forward because Gaza is difficult to control and should be abandoned. Regarding this idea, we said from the beginning that we would not object to Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, but we do not demand Gaza first as part of the interim period or to implement the interim period in Gaza or as a stage of the interim period in the occupied territories. This will weaken our position and divide the land and the elected authority.

[Khaz'al] Even for Gaza and Jericho first?

['Ashrawi] The issue of Gaza and Jericho has another political dimension. It means a geographic linkage and nonfragmentation of the occupied territories. Second, it is not intended to apply the interim period but to disengage and achieve a withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in order to ensure the continuation of the process within a comprehensive political agreement.

[Khaz'al] Will the proposal be a basis for future negotiations?

['Ashrawi] The PLO has discussed this issue, and some discussions on it are still going on. But it may be just a start.

[Khaz'al] Thank you Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Says Talks in 'Critical Phase'

NC2207072293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the autonomy issue was mentioned in the Camp David Accords. During the past 10 rounds of negotiations, the issue was discussed again. What, in your opinion, is the difference between autonomy as it was seen in the Camp David Accords and in the peace talks?

['Ashrawi] There is one main difference. The absence of the Palestinians at the Camp David talks weakened the [Egyptian] negotiating position. Right now, the Palestinians are directly involved in the talks, which gives the talks some vitality. The general framework outlined in the Camp David Accords was a basic one, but it does not address such issues as the geographical aspect or territorial jurisdiction.

In the current talks, we must deal with a transitional phase and with a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority [PISGA] the function of which will be to link the land and the people and take us to the final phase of a solution. Basic ideas and principles were drawn up at Camp David, but the current talks focus on practical measures.

One other thing: There has been a change on the ground. Since it signed the Camp David Accords, Israel has taken several precautions in anticipation of the transitional phase. Israel built settlements and confiscated more land in a bid to make it difficult for the Palestinians to secure their rights. It annexed Jerusalem, sealed it off, and built many settlements inside and around it. It also expanded Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. Israel also stepped up its confiscation of land and resources.

Politically, Israel has set up a so-called civilian administration and delegated to it the administrative responsibilities of the military authorities. Israel is now trying to give some of these administrative responsibilities to the PISGA. This means the source of power will remain the military authority and the Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] In light of the previous 10 rounds of peace negotiations, how do you assess these talks and what prospect do they hold?

['Ashrawi] The talks are passing through a very critical, delicate phase. The past few months produced no tangible results. The Israeli repression in the occupied territories continues. Israel is still trying to create a situation in the occupied territories that gives an unfair twist to the final solution. The United States has shown complete bias toward the Israeli position and indifference to the Palestinian. To make the process work, there

must be a meticulous, critical, and diagnostic view of the flaws marking its course and a daring, innovative, and constructive way to mend these flaws.

We are now calling for concerted efforts, a critical assessment, and new ideas leading to correcting the underlying shortcomings of the peace process that started with the Madrid conference. The nature of the Palestinian participation, the issue of the two phases, and the ambiguity of the final solution must be addressed. We need to condense the two phases, accelerate the process, define the final phase or solution, and decide on practical, clear, and accumulative steps leading to a solution that would take us to independence and the Palestinian state.

PLO's 'Abd-al-Shafi Views Prospects for Peace

AU2107124993 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 21 Jul 93 p 3

[Joerg Bremer report: " 'Abd-al-Shafi Can Rely on Support of Most Palestinians"]

[Text] Gaza, 20 July—Some Palestinian functionaries do not like 71-year-old physician and Red Cross chief Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. The chief negotiator from Gaza is no politician and no tactician. He often has controversial views, yet nobody can ignore him. Above all, he enjoys support among the population. 'Abd-al- Shafi does not want an office like chief coordinator [Faysal] al-Husayni, who is said to view himself as the prime minister at "President" 'Arafat's side. PLO cofounder 'Abd-al-Shafi criticizes the PLO. In his view, it should be an umbrella organization, a "symbol of the whole Palestinian people." A broader "leadership with democratic responsibility" is needed. He criticizes 'Arafat with a view toward the reality in the Gaza Strip. 'Abd-al-Shafi wants to open up the PLO to win over Hamas [Islamic Resistance Group]. The fundamentalists reject negotiations completely. However, the fact that the world is no longer interested in the deported Palestinians in southern Lebanon may pave the way for a compromise.

'Abd-al-Shafi was once a communist. Today he is not affiliated with any party. To become independent, he sold land. He is wealthy but modest. Even in the Gaza Strip, where violence prevails, 'Abd-al-Shafi uses an unprotected car. He does not need any bodyguard. He depicts himself as a realist. "I do not want to indulge in unjustified optimism. Al-Husayni and ('Arafat adviser) [Nabil] Sha'th often make statements that are too rosy." It is wrong to sell the small successes of the Palestinians as big ones so that the masses do not drift into the camp of the opponents to the talks. He shares an extreme mistrust of the Israelis with the majority of the Palestinians. The Israelis destroyed the "Arab continuity" in Palestine and are demanding conquered land. They only want to withdraw from densely populated Arab centers, like Nabulus or Hebron. "Israel has not shown any flexibility in 10 rounds. They believe that we are not entitled to anything. They consider every gesture great."

'Abd-al-Shafi made a proposal that, like all Palestinian offers, starts with a demand. "We call for a halt to the settlements, particularly in East Jerusalem." If the Israelis would promise that, one could postpone the debate about the biggest problem, the status of East Jerusalem. "Since the east is occupied, the demanded territorial and administrative sovereignty must be extended to East Jerusalem already during the transition phase."

'Abd-al-Shafi stated that he criticized the "Madrid formula" for the two phases as early as during the third round of Middle East talks. He is skeptical about a bilateral agreement. "I am ready to accept the autonomy rights that the Israelis are willing to grant us, if the entire territory is in the hands of a third power so that Israel cannot create new facts." This proposal is new. Yet it will probably not be acceptable for the majority of Palestinians, even though the physician claims that the Palestinians are aware of the needs of the Jewish settlements and the Israeli security requirements.

Like in the past two years, 'Abd-al-Shafi sits behind a big desk in his bare office in the Red Cross building. The plate on his door reads "Chairman." The old gentleman is filling a honorary position. Since the closure of the occupied territories at the end of March, misery has been growing in the Gaza Strip. The savings earned from work in Israel have been used up. In fact, prices have dropped, but fish and meat are too expensive for most Palestinians. People are telling the story about a boy who set himself on fire because his father could not afford to buy him a new pair of trousers for the Ramadan celebration. Left to their own devices, however, the Palestinians are becoming active. For the equivalent of 15 German marks [DM] per day, unemployed Palestinians clean the sidewalks and paint signs on the asphalt of the roads. Gaza, which is as densely populated as Calcutta, is still drowning in filth. 'Abd-al-Shafi lives on the outskirts, where graffiti, dust, and dirt serve as an outlet of the envy of the people who live in solid houses behind high walls. Yet 'Abd-al-Shafi's house is open to everybody. He shares it with two of his sons, who have German wives.

'Abd-al-Shafi is facing the reproach that the Palestinians always demand everything at once, whereas the Jews gradually established Israel. "First of all, we are entitled to our land," he relied. On the other hand, "we are not that well organized. We neither have the means nor the potential of the Zionist movement," the physician claimed. "Also, we cannot rely on the support of the Europeans." His ideas reflect the world of the Palestinians, but they are very precise. He does not hate others; he only judges them in a very uncompromising way. "We have our voters. The Israelis have theirs. What shall we do if they maneuver themselves into a blind alley? For 26 years, they have been preaching that the occupied territories belong to Israel. Now they cannot tell the truth any more."

The "Gaza First" proposal has not been officially submitted to him. One could talk about it, he said. "Gaza

has no special status. The peace process must include all areas. Of course it is possible to find a solution for Gaza first. We do not ask the Israelis to stay there. Yet if they withdraw unilaterally, they should not set conditions." In Tunis, talks are being held on the goal of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. 'Abd-al-Shafi smiled slightly. It is much too early to talk about that, he stressed. "The confederation can only reflect the free will of the people. Thus, the state must exist first." 'Abd-al-Shafi only participated in the ninth round of Middle East peace talks, which started later than expected because of the deportation of Hamas members, because of PLO pressure. He officially attended the 10th round. Al-Husayni led the talks. This practice can continue in the future. However, an agreement with Israel that is not endorsed by 'Abd-al- Shafi is not likely to bring peace.

Ten Factions Urge Withdrawal From Talks

JN2107192193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jul 93

["Text" of political statement by the 10 factions opposed to the peace talks—place and date not given]

[Text] The 10 Palestinian factions have studied the latest political developments, the dangers stemming from the continuation of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, particularly the U.S. Administration's pressures and its attempts to impose the conspiracy of the self-rule on the Palestinian people, and the submission of the dominating leadership to these pressures, which constitute a dangerous step toward achieving a breakthrough on this track. Such a breakthrough will, in turn, lead to pressures on the other tracks.

In light of these dangers, the 10 Palestinian factions urge the dominating PLO leadership, as well as the negotiating team, to immediately withdraw from the bilateral and multilateral talks and to refuse to deal with the U.S. working paper, which Ross intended to market during his recent tour as a step toward declaring the joint principles document between the Palestinian and Zionist sides. Such a withdrawal will open the door wide for a comprehensive national dialogue by the Palestinian forces in order to restore national unity and make a comprehensive review to formulate the national position on Palestinian rights and national principles.

They greet and highly value our people's brave intifadah and their confrontation of the Zionist enemy's Nazi brutality and hail the steadfastness of our deported brothers in Marj al-Zuhur, as well as their insistence on implementing Security Council Resolution 799 calling for their return to their homeland and families.

The 10 Palestinian factions discussed the visit to Damascus by a delegation led by Hani al-Hasan, as well as the delegation's meeting with some of the 10 Palestinian factions. As a result, they concluded that the visit is an exposed political maneuver by the dominating leadership—a maneuver aimed at containing the feasibility and essence of the national dialogue conditional to withdrawal from the Madrid-Washington talks. The 10 Palestinian factions call for considering 22 July, which marks the assassination of struggler Naji al-'Ali, a day for defending national culture and confronting attempts to achieve cultural normalization with the Zionist entity. Long live our people's intifadah. Glory and immortality to our martyrs.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

Algeria

Hamas Leader Discusses Current Issues, Modern State

LD2107171093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The Hamas [Islamic Society] Movement yesterday organized a conference in the hall of Malik Benabi in Setif on the current conditions in the country. Feisal Ghamis seized the occasion to talk to the leader of the movement, Cheikh Mahfoudh Nahnah, about how Hamas sees the concept of the modern state in Algeria and ways of entrenching it. What is his view?

[Begin recording] [Nahnah] We believe that the modern state is one which depends in its policy on the principle of consultation with regard to Islam or the principle of democracy. We do not see anything untoward in this.

On the economy level, the economic principle should be based on liberating the economy and applying economic initiative practices. Society should depend on safeguarding the unity of the society. The fourth point is: The unity of the Algerian soil and unity of Algerian heritage must be fully safeguarded. We must repel anyone who wants to harm our heritage. We must also repel anyone who wants to harm our soil.

The other matter with regard to the modern state is the one that upholds the method of maintaining contact and causing severance of links. Severance of links with every complacency and every complacent person and maintaining contact with everyone who is sincere, honest, and upright. The modern state cannot be cut off from its past; one cannot shut his eyes to its future, and one must not strike camp in its present and not think about its future.

The modern state in this meaning is a state of taste, a state of governing,a state of justice, a state of equality, a state of safeguarding its sovereignty, a state of discarding subservience, and a state which bestows dignity, pride and greatness without displaying any haughtiness on society, and a state which relies on the treasures of the human thought in a way that suits the bases and constants of this nation.

[Ghamis] In view of the current conditions in Algeria, what in your view are the possible ways to realize what you said?

[Nahnah] There are many sides which work for entrenching the traditional state and hamper the rise of the modern state. The most important of them consists of those who sow violence in our homes and regions and among the sons of our people. If the media destroy the entity and the bullets destroy the people and if the policy bans freedom of expression, all this would mean that the country will never emerge from its extraordinary state into a state of stability and security.

Those parties and elements which have a true patriotic tendency and a clean, upright, and genuine Islamic inclination are the ones who are working for a return to the people and to the voice of the people and the choice of the people away from falsification of facts and misrepresentation and away from every kind of violence. [end recording]

FLN Letter to HSC Outlines Basis for Dialogue

LD2107225893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] In a letter addressed to the Higher State Council [HSC] today, the Political Bureau of the former ruling party National Liberation Front [FLN] stated that the preliminary proposal on the basis for national consensus had not yet reached the stage of a final draft that could be discussed by submitting written suggestions. The FLN Political Bureau also believes that its contents should not be regarded as the outcome of the sought dialogue. It is, however, a round-up of a host of submitted ideas and issues, which requires open discussion between the sides taking part in the dialogue..

Network Supplying Arms To Terrorists Dismantled

LD2107225193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Security services in the governorate of Chlef today announced that a network supplying terrorists with weapons had been dismantled. According to the same source, members of this international network, who number 10, were today taken to court. Nine of them were placed in preventive detention, while the tenth, a mosque imam, was placed under surveillance. During the arrest, the security services recovered two automatic pistols equipped with French-made silencers and two rifles stolen from Ain Defla citizens, in addition to tapes, clothes, forged documents, and a stolen car.

According to preliminary information from the investigation, the network was active under the leadership of a man named Bounoua Cherif, who is on the run and who, together with the imam, had weapons hidden in his house and in a hall in the district of Hosaria.

Kuwaiti Envoy Meets Kafi 21 Jul, Makes Statement

LD2107212493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] At the Presidency headquarters, Higher Council of State [HSC] Chairman Ali Kafi today received Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Atiq, adviser and special envoy of the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Following the meeting, the Kuwaiti envoy made the following statement to the TV correspondent:

[Begin recording] ['Atiq] I have come to Algeria to convey greetings from his highness the amir of Kuwait to his brother, His Excellency President Ali Kafi, and also to convey to him Kuwait's desire to continue amicable

relations between the two peoples and the two leaderships and to work for a better future, God willing, for the good of Arabs and Muslims.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you assess relations between the state of Kuwait and Algeria?

[Atiq] That is a difficult question. How do we assess them? There are fraternal relations between the two countries. Those relations will not, God willing, be affected by passing issues. We pray to God that we can work together for the good of Arabs and Muslims.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Accepts Presidential Nomination for 3d Term

Addresses People's Assembly 21 Jul

NC2107204493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1909 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to members of the People's Assembly upon accepting their nomination for another presidential term; at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis, Cairo on 21 July—live]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and sisters members of the People's Assembly: One cannot express enough thanks and appreciation for this precious confidence and generous recognition that I have been honored with, your nominating me president of the Arab Republic of Egypt for another term [applause]. It is an act that shows appreciation by the people's deputies and representatives of the delicate stage that Egypt is now passing through to defend its right to stability and progress. This nomination fills me with pride and gratitude for this valuable trust you have placed in me, to stand alongside our dear people, so that together we can wage a fateful battle to remove the transitory dangers that try to strike at their security, undermine their stability, and obstruct their progress.

Despite the enormous troubles and tremendous difficulties that I have encountered in my first two terms, the call of duty leaves no other choice but to stand beside the people under these critical circumstances and to assume the honor of responsibility regardless of the troubles and difficulties. I do this out of a confident belief in Egypt's ability to overcome its current difficulties and to attain the progress it hopes for. The call of duty dictates my acceptance of this nomination under circumstances that require the maintenance of unity of the homeland and the consolidation of its steadfastness to protect its present and guarantee its future. Our pledge to our dear people was to safeguard their security and stability, to prepare a suitable atmosphere and mobilize all possible efforts to ensure comprehensive and continued development for them. This, in turn, would result in the well-being of all the people, and would eliminate all obstacles preventing the establishment of a true democracy that could open the door for everybody's participation. I thank God that these objectives, which the Egyptian people all want, have become a well-established reality that opens the door for a comprehensive renaissance that could place Egypt in its proper position among the world's advanced peoples.

Our achievements in the past 10 years are a source of pride for every Egyptian. But these great achievements realized by the Egyptian people in national action, both at home and abroad, are now threatened by factions that do not want stability and progress for this homeland and that do not seek impregnability and strength for Egypt. We have no choice under these critical circumstances but to stand all in one trench; to continue the march, face the challenges, to ward off the dangers so that they may not hamper progress, and to honor the pledge for a secure and stable homeland both now and in the future. A homeland that flourishes with free opinion and true democracy.

Brothers and sisters: Perhaps you know more than anybody else the efforts that we have exerted together in the past years, removing mountains of obstacles that blocked the march of development and reconstruction, creating with mutual confidence a new atmosphere that motivates every Egyptian to contribute, and laying down a firm foundation for a comprehensive renaissance that could take Egypt to a new era of its life.

You know more than others that this high position, though one of distinction and splendor, means for me no more than toil, sweat, and constant effort for the sake of our great people. There is no gain, respite, or ambition, but toil and sacrifice that continue day after day to protect this dear homeland. [applause]

While deeply grateful and thankful, we do not see in this nomination anything but an assignment handed us by the homeland to shoulder the burden of heavy responsibility. But we pray to God to grant us support and backing so that we can be faithful to the rights of a loyal people who deserve all the sacrifices. My greatest incentive for accepting this noble nomination is a strong and overflowing feeling of the need to respond to the challenge so as to achieve for our dear Egypt the [word indistinct] and progress it is striving for and remove from its path the unforeseen dangers that threaten its stability and impede its progress. We will continue with the economic reform process to the end so that Egypt can have a society capable of fulfilling the needs of its sons. The efforts for constant development will continue, relying on good investment of the country's resources. Thus we can protect its unity and cohesion, consolidate the bases of social justice, and deepen the feeling of national belonging and the people's ties of common interest.

We will provide wider scope for democratic action. We will expand the circle of responsible participation within the framework of a national agreement that will protect the country's supreme interests, increase the people's supervision of its national fate, and provide the best opportunities for dialogue in a sound democratic climate that guarantees for everyone his equal right to serve the homeland's objectives and the people's interests.

I am confident that our future will necessarily be better than our present if each one of us shoulders his national and moral responsibilities and if we deeply believe that we are a single entity whose common fate depends on the fate of every Egyptian, and if we believe we are partners in duties and responsibilities before being partners in the outcome of national action.

Brothers and sisters. I thank you again for this precious confidence and this noble esteem.

I pledge to the homeland that I will protect its security and dignity, defend every inch of its soil, and maintain a national force capable of guaranteeing its interests.

I pledge to the homeland that I will be where justice and right are, uphold the supremacy of law, protect Egypt's social peace, preserve its national unity so that it can remain, as it has always remained, a homeland that is thriving in action and belief, flying the banners of light and civilization, and supporting whatever is good and noble.

I pledge to the people to be honest in word and deed. We will speak only of what we can do and will not promise more than we can deliver. We will exert our utmost efforts for the sake of the national interest, free from selfish whims and personal interests and ambitions. We will place the homeland's dignity above all other considerations. We will remain, as always, a support for all noble values. We will serve God and the homeland, fight laxity and corruption, expose falseness and selfishness, fight divisions and ruptures, and bring our people to a sincere harmony which nourishes the spirit of giving and which does not differentiate between supporter and opposition as long as the greatest loyalty is to the homeland and to sincere belonging to the people. [applause]

We will remain, as always, a clear page and an open book. We will show only what we feel and will not say secretly what we cannot say openly. We will not ask others to do what we ourselves cannot do. We fear God in our intentions and behavior and we side only with justice, good, and the national interest.

I pray to God Almighty to guide us, to make us deal with our people fairly, and to support us along the path of goodness. He is the best to protect and the best to help. [Koranic verse] May God grant you and us success and may His peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Delivers July Revolution Speech

NC2207110593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0804 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at a celebration to mark the 41st anniversary of the July revolution at the National Democratic Party headquarters in Cairo—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother citizens, dear guests, the July revolution will always remain one of the greatest events in Egyptian history. It may be growing more distant, but we celebrate its glorious anniversary annually, renewing our pride in a unique national revolution that changed the face of the country and became one of the greatest revolutions. [passage omitted]

Brother citizens, only yesterday I received with appreciation and gratitude the nomination of the distinguished People's Assembly for me to continue to bear my responsibility as the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt for a third term [applause] to preserve the homeland's stability during difficult times in which it faces harsh challenges by the advocates of darkness and the enemies of progress who seek to stop Egypt's ascent.

To tell you the truth, but for a sense of the great responsibility involved and the crucial nature of the current phase, I would have been tempted to choose otherwise, because my two previous terms in power have involved tiring work to put Egypt on the right track. Let every citizen know it is the call of duty that forces me to accept this nomination, because I see no comfort or riches in the job, only a promise of hard work until Egypt achieves its desired goals. [applause]

The Egyptian people, at this difficult time, face a tough challenge from misguided groups that want to spread destruction and ruin, strike the nation's stability and security, and dash its hopes of progress and prosperity. My duty and honor force me to be where the people want me, confronting with them this danger that threatens the achievements for which the nation has made costly sacrifices.

The dimensions of the plot are clear to every man and woman in this country. The advocates of terror want to spread fear, halt investment, paralyze economic activity, destroy the chances of employment for millions of young men in this great country, throw us once more into the woes of economic deterioration, scarce resources, lack of investment, and widespread unemployment, and dash our hopes of breaking out of this vicious cycle.

This is the evil plot that has unraveled through their criminal insistence on striking at tourism, a leading economic sector, and venomous determination to spread panic on the Egyptian street through acts of such barbarity that no one, unless they have sold themselves to the devil, would ever commit.

We will not allow the evil groups to destroy that which the people have achieved through their sacrifices, painstaking efforts, and tears. [applause] We will not allow these forces to assassinate the Egyptian hope, which has become a reality. We will stand alongside our people to wage together the battle to establish stability and emphasize progress.

These considerations, brothers and sisters, found me accepting the nomination for another presidential term. [applause] I will defend the honor of responsibility and I will always honor my pledge to the people: frankness, honesty, conscientiousness, and clarity of objective and goal.

We will defend the homeland, we will honor the pledge, and we will safeguard the trust. We will defend the homeland's dignity, the purity of rule, and the independence of decisions. We will establish justice and we will champion rights and the supremacy of law. We will open every door for free opinion, responsible participation, and sound democracy. We will consolidate the ties of unity and social justice and those of interests and common affiliation. We will sacrifice everything for the devout people and a homeland that deserves the greatest sacrifices.

Brothers and sisters, the people's unity, their strong stance, and their categorical rejection of those who stab the honor of religion and homeland and who seek to abort the hopes of the numerous masses of the Egyptian sons corroborate my confidence that we will eradicate the roots of terror. We will not accept these conditions and we will not allow them to continue. We will not let such people wreak havoc on the country, destroy the country's future, kill innocent people, and terrorize people through reckless hatred. They were appalled when they learned that Egypt is about to ride out its crisis and that the efforts made for reforms have created suitable circumstances for a new surge in the Egyptian economy.

They were saddened to see the Egyptian income from tourism rise to $4 billion a year, which will open the doors for a dignified life for hundreds of thousands of Egyptians. Unhappy to see the success that would create a prosperous tourist season for Egypt, they feverishly endeavored to close the doors to honest living.

They were indifferent toward the tremendous national interests that could let hundreds of thousands or rather millions of honest Egyptians secure their living. These millions are now suffering the decline in tourism. They were disgruntled to see Egypt successfully attracting huge Arab and foreign investment embodied in hundreds of successful projects that create more job opportunities for our new generations and add new products of excellent quality to those already made in Egypt.

They feverishly started to threaten Egyptian, Arab, and foreign investors and vowed to sabotage them if they continued their investment projects in Egypt. They were not pleased at the prospect of seeing Egypt, in the next five years and within the context of its declared economic plan, confront the problems of the jobless, raise the standard of services, especially in education and learning; and curb the increasing population growth through development. This development would generate tangible progress in Egyptian life and would create a reasonable balance between wages and prices. They feverishly endeavored to cut the path to all progress.

They were appalled to see Egypt enjoying a distinguished position in our contemporary world and regaining its leading role in the Arab world. They were not pleased to see Egypt as a force of justice and peace, defending its sisters and safeguarding the national right and security. They feverishly tried to tarnish the homeland's image and obstruct its role and efforts.

Brothers and sisters, I think acceptance of the nomination means continuing the hard work so that Egypt can overcome its difficulties and achieve its objectives. It also means firm adherence to the national aims that have been unanimously endorsed by the people, namely, sound democracy, continuous development, and just peace. But the correct starting point for all this lies in total confrontation of the elements of terrorism and in destroying their plan to hinder and frustrate Egypt's development and progress. The right starting point lies in ensuring the atmosphere of stability and security. Were it not for the great achievements made by Egypt in a stable and secure atmosphere, undermining stability would not have become the primary objective of this outrageous group, which does not know the meaning of homeland or religion.

The colossal effort made by the police to defend Egypt's right to a stable and secure homeland and the bold sacrifices they make for this purpose deserve the support of every Egyptian. Confronting terrorism must be a comprehensive effort by everyone [applause]—the state and society, the government and people, and the majority and the opposition parties—because there is no alternative and no middle path between democracy and anarchy, because Egypt would pay the price. There is no choice when it comes to the terrorist groups and the country's interests.

Salutations to the devoted police martyrs [applause] who fell in the most honorable arena in defense of this country's security and stability. Salutations to all the policemen and officers who shoulder the burden of the confrontation to defend the achievements of a people who deserve life and progress. Salutations to the souls of scores of our innocent people who fell as victims of the sinful terrorist crimes. Salutations to all the honorable citizens who, spontaneously, in their strong zeal for the homeland, hastened to confront the terrorist members after realizing the scale of the criminal scheme that threatens the country's interests and the lives of its people.

Brother citizens, the country will not forget its martyrs and will not forget the enormity of the crime these

murderers committed as they spread death among the people. We will adopt all the necessary measures that the Constitution and law grant us to restore stability in the country, hoping that the Egyptian parties and political forces will comprehend the increasing angry cries on the Egyptian street, cries that urge the national conscience to uproot terrorism. We appreciate the sincere patriotic stances of the democratic parties that have emphatically condemned terrorism and not offered excuses or justifications to lessen the ugliness of terrorism or defend its reasons.

But we and the people feel there is still a need for greater cooperation among the political forces, the party and unionist organizations, and the various intellectual groupings to undertake active initiatives to contain terrorism, paralyze its effectiveness, expose its elements, and uncover its plans. The issue, as it has become clear to every person who has a mind and a conscience, is no longer one for the government alone, but for Egypt, whose present and future terrorism seeks to destroy.

I believe our efforts will consolidate democracy, broaden participation in public life, and create a healthy national atmosphere that would take democracy to new horizons.

We have no personal reasons preventing us from completing our democratic march, because we believe in the people's right to fully and firmly supervise the performance of the executive branch. We also believe in the equal rights of all parties in their quest to serve the nation, according to their size and weight. We believe in democracy and the multiparty system.

We are for all this, but my duty and conscience impel me to warn of the pitfalls and potholes that lie along the road. We face a danger that threatens to undermine stability and security. Some groups are also waiting for an opportunity to pounce on democracy and deal it a fatal blow.

Democracy and stability are two necessary conditions for progress. Without one, the other will not be the same. Without stability, democracy would turn into chaos, irresponsibility, fragmented efforts, and the squandering of public interests.

Likewise, without democracy, stability would turn into dogmatism and stagnation and the nation would lose its power to renovate and revitalize itself.

I think Egypt needs to know the importance of national cohesion. One-upmanship and empty slogans are things we do not need as we steer the homeland to a path of progress. We must make the path of the homeland one of safety, stability, and revitalization. Our country should remain capable of meeting the needs of progress.

Brothers and sisters, the economic reforms must continue. Their path has been strewn with burdens and difficulties, but the worst is over. It is in our national interest to complete the task.

We have corrected the flaws in the Egyptian economic structure by applying a gradual and comprehensive plan that brought both budget deficit and inflation under control. Let me assure you that the second stage of economic reform will lead to an increased flow of national, Arab, and foreign investment. This will help to improve productivity, reduce costs, and enhance production and competitiveness. We must remember that today we have a modern infrastructure capable of absorbing any new projects.

Brothers and sisters, I understand the concern being voiced about the disposal of public business sector projects, which may end up completely in the hands of the private sector. But I say with clarity and confidence that we are not forced to accept anything that does not accord with our national interests.

We know [applause] of the need to keep the fate of this country firmly in the hands of its own sons. We will not sell these businesses cheaply, sacrifice the rights of workers, or squander [nuhuddhid] our industrial bastions. [applause]

I am full of hope that with God's help, we will ride out our difficulties. We have the resolve to do it. We aim to serve the homeland and the public are firmly behind us. We will overcome our difficulties, restore the country's safety and security, and banish from the horizon the advocates of darkness and ruin.

We will pave the way to progress, construction, peace, and prosperity. We will keep the torch lit and the hope of every Egyptian for a better future alive. We will not allow the forces of darkness to cloud our skies, nor will we allow the advocates of destruction to impede construction. We will not allow what the people built with blood, sweat, and tears to be demolished. This is a vow we take before God and the homeland and one we are confident we can fulfill. The people's will is derived from that of God. May the almighty guide our steps and grant us success. Peace be upon you. [applause]

NPUG Opposes Assembly's Nomination of Mubarak

NC2107180793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1532 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Speech by Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Grouping, at the People's Assembly session held in Cairo on 21 July to nominate President Husni Mubarak for a third term—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members. I believe that we all agree that this session is a historic one. It has the task of presenting Egypt with a candidate for the position of president of the Republic which, by any criteria, is a high-level position and deeply influences the course of events in this country at this difficult stage in the

homeland's history. Egypt is watching us today debating the issue of nominating a president, and this requires us to rise to the level of this responsibility and to accept it.

The fact is that the position of the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] parliamentary group on this issue cannot be put as a simple no or yes. We must at the beginning establish a number of bases on which to base our position.

1. We are an opposition party that adopts different economic and social policies and political stances. Our party has serious observations about the regime's social and economic policies and political actions. The NPUG believes that the economic and social policies have burdened the poor and middle classes with more than they can endure.

2. Though we recognize that President Husni Mubarak's tenure has seen a considerable measure of democratic openness and practices that are much better than previous ones, we still demand and fight for more.

3. While recognizing that the regime and President Husni Mubarak have personally achieved considerable success in restoring the Egyptian role in the Arab framework and have noticeably succeeded in restoring Arab ties with Egypt, we still have some observations about these stands.

4. We realize, out of deep understanding, the nature of the changes in the world and region, and we can see their effects on Egypt's capabilities and its freedom of action in the international and Arab arenas. Yet we have serious observations about this which we have reiterated in our parliamentary documents. But the most important change in the situation has been the intensification of terrorism that uses religion as a cover and all the danger it poses to the homeland, national unity, Egypt's future, and civilian society's fate. Egypt had spent more than 150 years struggling for the stability of its civilian society, the Constitution, the People's Assembly, civil laws, the press, and freedom of expression and creed. The propagators of terrorism have tried to make us regress from all this by using religion as a cover. This has probably created a situation that makes all of us stand united against a terrorism that hides behind religion, united against its propagators, and united against the disseminators of its ideas. But this does not mean that we do not have serious observations about the need to bring about radical change in the media and education policies and even in all the economic and social policies that are creating the climate in which terrorist extremism that uses religion as a cover thrives.

Throughout the past period, our parliamentary body has taken clear positions on the government's economic and social policies which have resulted in what we believe to be a burden on the citizens, especially the poor and middle classes, and which is more than they can endure. This difference in social and economic stands is probably creating a range of opposition that cannot be ignored. Yet, our party, realizing the gravity of the situation resulting from the escalating waves of extremism and terrorism that use religion as cover, has proposed a policy that we believe to be in the interest of the homeland and all its people, namely, to introduce some democratic, economic, and social reforms that we believe can get the homeland out of this tight situation and enable it to decisively confront the terrorism that uses religion as a cover. Though we have declared this position for some time now, there has been no response yet. There might be a response in the future.

This prompts us to vote against the proposal before you today, namely, the nomination of President Husni Mubarak.

Members: From now until the elections, the NPUG will continue its efforts to achieve its proposals, hoping that serious policies will be undertaken to achieve these objectives so that we can define our stand on elections day.

Finally, I have to emphasize some points.

1. Our stand is a political one that emanates from a political view of the adopted policies and has nothing whatever to do with the person of the president, whom we respect and esteem.

2. Our stand does not indicate a point of divergence. We will stand united in one rank against all the foes of the homeland, the enemies of our national unity, the foes of progress, and the advocates of darkness.

We will stand united against the terrorists who use religion as a cover and against all those who support them inside and outside the country.

Finally, Mr. Speaker and members, we support any step that is taken in the interest of Egypt and the Egyptians. God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Security Forces Apprehend 25 'Terrorists'

NC2107182593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1634 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Ismailia, 21 Jul (MENA)—A responsible security source has stated that at approximately 1330 today security investigations indicated that certain terrorists assembled in District No. 6 in Ismailia. The security forces confronted the terrorists and arrested 25 after having had to fight with them because they attacked the security forces, injuring the right arm of Captain Wa'il Rushdi from the Criminal Investigation Department, and the right elbow of policeman 'Abd-al-Rahim Mahmud Husayn. The source said that terrorist Mahmud Muhammad Ahmad al-Abrashi was hit by two bullets in his left leg below the knee and in his right thigh, and was taken to Ismailia hospital.

The investigations showed that the terrorists who instigated the gathering are 'Abd-al-'Alim Tulbah Misbah, 'Abd-al-'Al 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Mu'ti, and Samir

Mahmud Khalil. The first two have been detained and the search for the third is continuing.

Foreign Minister Musa on Lebanon, Peace Process

PM2107160193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jul 93 p2

[Unattributed interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Bayt Miri, Lebanon, on 19 July]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] The south is being tossed back and forth between negotiations in Washington and escalation through Israeli aggression. As someone with vast knowledge of what is going on, do you expect a new Israeli aggression after the recent threats made by senior Israeli officials?

[Musa] First of all, let us hope that nothing of the sort will occur and that the peace process will be given a chance to continue in a favorable atmosphere. Secondly, escalation and negotiation do not go together. Whenever the situation in the south deteriorates the negotiations come to a standstill. The aim of the negotiations is to regain the territories, including the Lebanese territory. Anything which obstructs that is against Lebanese interests. Egypt tackles the situation carefully, especially in relation to the protection of Lebanon, respect for its sovereignty in the face of aggression, and also protection of the peace process, which is based on the land-for-peace principle. That is because we want all the occupied Arab territories to return to their owners and we want the current situation to end. As regards the south, our position is clear and has been stated. We are against any aggression on Lebanon's sovereignty.

[AL-HAYAH] One logic favors support for the resistance in the south to liberate the territory. Do you accept that logic, bearing in mind Egypt's support for the peace process and the bilateral negotiations?

[Musa] The peace negotiations are the alternative or the main realistic course which could produce results. As regards the situation in the south, we are holding talks with the Lebanese Government, which represents all the Lebanese, and we are ready to coordinate with the Lebanese Government which is a part of the negotiation process covering this issue. That is our position.

[AL-HAYAH] To put it in another way, minister, do you believe that the resistance helps the negotiations to go forward or brings the negotiations to a standstill?

[Musa] To a standstill because the negotiations have a clear dynamism and the aim is Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967. That is the main aim together with support for Palestinian rights. We are opposed to anything that runs contrary to or obstructs that, but we should all reject occupation. Rejection of occupation is a natural thing. We now have a way of ending that occupation. So we must address it and exploit it in the interest of Arab rights.

[AL-HAYAH] The past negotiation rounds were not encouraging and, as a result, there has been some resentment at the level of the Arab negotiating delegations ...

[Musa, interrupting] That is because it is not a question of one or a few rounds or one or two months. This is a major issue. We are optimistic that the process will produce results and we are striving for such results. There have been encouraging precedents such as the peace treaty concluded between Egypt and Israel. That is clear. Egypt was able to regain all its territory through negotiations. That is what is going on here and on all the other Arab-Israeli negotiation tracks. There is a precedent for Israeli withdrawal from all territories. That is what should apply.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you have any positive indications in this connection?

[Musa] I believe that there are still some positive points which must be exploited. As we can see, the negotiations have now moved from generalities, formalities, questions as to who should negotiate with whom, and procedural matters to discussion of fundamental matters. We have entered the stage of submitting and exchanging documents and of making proposals and counterproposals. That is important in the negotiations.

[AL-HAYAH] There is clear Arab frustration and open claims that the U.S. Administration is not playing the part of full partner in the negotiations with a view to steering them toward the targets on the basis of which the peace process was launched, namely implementation of UN resolutions and fulfillment of the land-for-peace principle.

[Musa] The claim that the U.S. Administration is not playing the part of full partner is untrue and is exaggerated perhaps to serve certain objectives of one group or another; the reality is that the United States has submitted documents over which the Palestinians and Israelis are negotiating, as well as other documents for the other tracks, along with Israeli and Arab documents. There has been activity on all tracks. To say otherwise is to serve certain unrelated objectives. We are proceeding with the peace process and we will continue to support it and, to be fair, the U.S. Administration is playing its part in that.

[AL-HAYAH] You have said that there has been some progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. In the light of that progress, do you expect the Palestinians to participate in the next round of negotiations?

[Musa] I believe so. Is there any alternative to the negotiations?

[AL-HAYAH] Could you be specific about that progress and the points agreed upon?

[Musa] There is a paper containing a number of points and proposals and we have worked on its contents. There

is clear movement on that, and there is talk of withdrawals, autonomy, transfer of power, and how the territory issue should be addressed. That is important.

[AL-HAYAH] What about the fate of Jerusalem?

[Musa] Its fate cannot be addressed, now but special arrangements for it could be reached.

[AL-HAYAH] May we know these arrangements or at least the main relevant outlines?

[Musa] No, that is not possible because the issue is subject to negotiation. As I said before, there is work being done.

[AL-HAYAH] Would such arrangements be in harmony with the views of Egyptian diplomacy?

[Musa] No, no, no, the views of Egyptian diplomacy are not the question here. There will be negotiations on all that. The matter is subject to negotiation and I cannot talk about details, but all these matters are under discussion and on paper. I know that there are some circles outside the Arab world or some minorities inside the Arab world who believe or rather want the negotiations to fail for ulterior motives, but that will not happen.

[AL-HAYAH] What about Arab soldarity today in relation to the negotiations? In the past Egypt played a part in the interest of real Arab solidarity. Is it still working for such solidarity?

[Musa] Of course, we are still working for real Arab solidarity. The matter is not as simple as you think. It requires continuous efforts, patience, and perseverance. Ultimately there must be Arab solidarity and we still hope to achieve it.

[AL-HAYAH] Is there any Egyptian initiative in that respect outside the framework of the cordon states?

[Musa] It is not a question of initiatives. It is a question of paving the way and preparing the atmosphere, which is today better than yesterday. The time element is important for the elimination of past accretions, and it would be risky not to exploit it in sealing the cracks in the wall of Arab solidarity.

U.S.-Imposed World 'Totalitarian System' Feared

NC2207074093 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Jul 93 p 2

["Comment" column by Nabil Zaki: "Neototalitarianism"]

[Text] Events in Somalia and the problem of monitoring Iraqi armaments pose many vital questions about the responsibilities, commitments, and objectives of the United Nations.

Not many people understood the point behind the wide smile on U.S. President Bill Clinton's face during his news conference to discuss the "successes" in Somalia, when the international forces killed over 50 Somali citizens. People wondered what success he meant.

Not many in the Arab world understood the threats to Iraq of new military strikes if it does not accept placing photographic equipment in its military installations to monitor their activities. Paul Brown, an expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, says the Israeli budget for nuclear projects is increasing 10 to 15 percent a year. Not many understood Clinton's threats to annihilate North Korea if it does not subject its nuclear installations to inspection. He did not even pause for a moment to mention Israel, which refuses to subject its nuclear installations to inspection.

UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali said the international organization is burdened by 24 problems around the globe. That's true. What he said about the need to disarm the various warring Somali factions is also true. But the world does not want the UN forces to be transformed into occupation forces. The world wants the peacekeeping forces to receive their orders from the United Nations. (U.S. forces refuse to receive their orders from the United Nations.) The United Nations has no right to arrest leaders of groups in a country where there are no courts to represent them. The important point is that the masses should not become victims of an attempt to prove the United States remains strong, capable, provides a deterrent, and is still the chief of the world. The masses should not become victims of double standards or discrimination.

It is unreasonable for world capitals to reject the totalitarian system inside one country only to accept a totalitarian system for the world, which gets subjected to strict centralization, a single opinion, or single decision issued from Washington. This would mean the disappearance of international pluralism.

Morocco

'Clear Message' to Polisario on Options Available

PM2207081693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jul 93 p 4

[Muhammad al-Ashhab report: "Morocco Gives Polisario Two Options: Assimilation or Referendum"]

[Excerpts] Rabat—A prominent Moroccan official has emphasized to AL-HAYAH that the Laayoune meeting between two Saharan delegations from Morocco and the Polisario was "positive." The Polisario was given a "clear message," telling it to choose between two options: "Either return to the country and assimilate into public life or go ahead with the implementation of the UN plan to conduct the referendum."

The official added: "The ball is now in the court of the other side, which must choose one of the two options."

Observers believe that the Laayoune meeting achieved 50 percent success. It has kept the channels of contacts

open between the two sides and shown that it is possible to deal with the Saharan dispute from new foundations that preserve the UN role but open the door to a peaceful compromise supported by the international community in the event of the two sides' agreement on a suitable way out, recognizing Morocco's sovereignty over the disputed Saharan governorates. [passage omitted]

In the same context sources expected the two delegations to hold new meetings to be hosted by Paris or Geneva to discuss ways of dealing with developments in the dispute. UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali described the Laayoune meeting as an encouraging element which inspires confidence that contacts between the two sides will continue.

As of yesterday no statements had been issued by the Polisario to assess the Laayoune meeting. Sources in Rabat believe that the Moroccan delegation's emphasis on the need to secure an atmosphere "characterized by seriousness and the spirit of responsibility to provide prospects for further meetings" is tantamount to a message to the Polisario urging it to comply with the implementation of the UN plan, since the usefulness of any upcoming meeting lies in studying the criteria for determining the identity, not in anything else. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Minister Denies Plans To Increase Oil Output

LD2207001093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2257 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Jul (SPA)—Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, told SPA today that reports on the Kingdom's intention to increase its production or raise its output to 12 million barrels per day were not true. He added that the Kingdom was committed to its quota, which was agreed upon at an OPEC conference. Nazir pointed out that the current instability in the market was due to the repeated violations by a number of countries of their quotas. The best solution for such instability is for those countries to immediately abide by their quotas, he added.

Eritrean President Arrives on Official Visit

LD2007165593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 20 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency President Isayas Afewerki of Eritrea arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on an official visit to the Kingdom.

His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, was at 'Abd-al-Aziz International Airport to receive his excellency. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Fahd 20 Jul

LD2107101893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud this evening held a meeting with President Isayas Aferwerki of Eritrea at al-Salam Palace. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

LD2107210593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] His Excellency President Isayas Aferwerki, president of Eritrea, has pointed out that his talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, dealt with the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its contribution to agrarian development projects and projects in industry, tourism, energy, and other fields.

In a news conference which he held at the Conference Hall in Jeddah earlier today, his excellency said that the custodian of the two holy mosques was responsive and expressed readiness to support Eritrea, back its economic policies and projects, promote investment in it, and also encourage Eritreans who have been residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to contribute to the development of the Eritrean economy in the future. His excellency emphasized the Kingdom's interest in the events taking place in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea in general and asserted that there is a common understanding on such issues. The custodian of the two holy mosques is aware of the kingdom's mission and role in what has been taking place in Eritrea, he added.

His excellency pointed out that his country's relations with the Gulf states are based primarily on securing stability and the successes that have been achieved in Eritrea and the Horn of Africa region and on consolidating their relations in a way that will bring economic stability. He added that following a long struggle his country is now independent but that there is no ground for anyone to talk about an Eritrean economy. The latter was destroyed during the 30-year war and also by the natural disasters that have affected it.

President Aferwerki added that stability will be established in Eritrea through promoting economic reforms and changes in people's daily life, in addition to Eritrea's limited capabilities [as heard]. He pointed to the need for support from brothers and neighboring countries, led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Regarding Eritrea's joining the Arab League, he said that that would be a political decision. He said that the decision to join the OAU was a geographical decision. He said that his country regards joining the OAU as joining a family or a specific geographical system in the world. He pointed to the role of the Arab League and its influence in finding solutions to Arab problems and creating an atmosphere for cooperation and the strengthening of inter-Arab relations.

The Eritrean president was asked a question on the security of the Red Sea and Eritrean strategy there. He replied: The security of the Red Sea is a matter that concerns all the countries of the Red Sea, and this also applies to any direction or decision that would affect its security negatively or positively. He said that the significance of Red Sea security goes beyond the region and is of international meaning, and that any decision would have an impact on the surrounding countries and on the international situation. He stressed that the maintenance of the security and stability of the Red Sea requires the cooperation of its countries.

In the course of replying to a question on the state of Eritrean refugees abroad, the president reviewed the efforts made for their return and the Eritrean government's talks and endeavors with a view to finding a solution to the problem. He pointed out that among the efforts was a proposal made at a recent meeting in Geneva, the cost of which was estimated at $262 million, to be implemented in stages over three and a half years. At each stage over 100,000 Eritrean would be returned. He said that the proposal includes the preparation of sites and the rehabilitation of other places to absorb the refugees, and added that it has been agreed on by the government and the United Nations and submitted to

the donors in Geneva who will contribute to the completion of the first phase, the cost of which is estimated at $110 million.

During his news conference, President Isayas Aferwerki dealt with a number of issues including the Eritrean fighters and the payment of their salaries. He pointed out that this issue had been settled in a few hours. He said that if there had not been a change in the economic situation in Eritrea, the problem would still exist, and urged both his own and the international community to contribute to finding a solution to the issue. He said that the Eritrean government is working to overcome the difficulties in the issue.

Regarding the national dialogue, he said that any side that was active within the framework of the political movement more than 30 years of the call was aiming for the independence of Eritrea [sentence as heard]. Now that independence has been achieved, there is no justification for the political disputes that existed during the period of the armed struggle. He pointed out that this does not mean that all the disputes have been settled and that there are no differences in opinion or political differences.

President Isayas Aferwerki also dealt with the Western countries' stances regarding support for Eritrea, and spoke about his country's relations with Sudan, the Somalia issue, and the UN role.

Yemen

Chief of Staff Reportedly Tenders Resignation

JN2107164693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Official Yemeni sources have said Major General 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bushiri, chief of staff of the Yemeni Armed Forces, has tendered his resignation to protest Yemeni Defense Minister Haytham Qasim Tahir's policy. The source said Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has not yet made a decision on the resignation.

Decree Establishes Higher Elections Committee

JN2107202393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Presidential Council's Decree No. 5 of 1993, forming the Higher Elections Committee, was issued today. The following is the text of the decree:

After taking cognizance of both the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and Law No. 41 of 1992 on general elections, and following the Presidential Council's approval, the chairman of the Presidential Council has decided the following:

Article 1: The Higher Elections Committee shall be formed from the following brothers: Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi, Mahmud 'Abdallah ('Aradsi), Sa'id Muhammad al-Hakimi, Amin 'Ali Amin, 'Abd-al-Fattah Salih al-Basir, 'Abd-al-Malik al-Mukhlafi, and Khalid Ghaylan Sa'id.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance, and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the presidency in Sanaa on 1 Safar 1414 Hejira, corresponding to 21 July 1993

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

INA Reports on Security Council Meeting on Blockade

JN2107194593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1856 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, 21 Jul (INA)—Diplomatic sources in New York have told INA's New York correspondent that during today's consultations, several UN Security Council member states asked for the start the process to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq. Meanwhile, other UN Security Council members asked that the review performed every 60 days be postponed until tomorrow in order to listen to Ekeus' report on his mission in Baghdad.

The INA correspondent has learned that Morocco, Djibouti, Pakistan, and Venezuela asked that lifting the blockade be considered. Meanwhile, the PRC asked that the review be postponed until tomorrow in order to to listen to Ekeus' report.

Britain's David Hannay, this month's UN Security Council president, recited before journalists word for word the same statement issued every 60 days when the council reviews the boycott. He said the bimonthly review has nothing to do with Ekeus' report on the results of his talks in Baghdad.

In response to a question on the oil negotiations, Hannay said the UN Security Council hopes for the success of these negotiations. He said the secretary general and some council members hold the view that the oil issue needs a new Security Council resolution.

Britain's Hannay refrained from responding to a question on the possibilities and dimensions of the council's next review of the boycott, that is, 60 days from now.

The INA correspondent in New York said that the permanent Security Council members are scheduled to meet with Ekeus at 0100, after midnight tonight, Iraq time.

UN Urged To Reassess Security Council Charter

JN2207093493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi paper has called on the United Nations to set up a judicial committee within the UN Security Council, with members from the Nonaligned countries and Switzerland, to discuss and resolve differences that may emerge between states.

In a report titled "A Proposal to the UN Security Council," the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today says: The UN Charter, drawn up 48 years ago, should be amended to conform with the developments that have occurred since then on the world scene, represented by the independence of colonies and semicolonies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc.

The paper adds: The United Nations should reconsider the status and structure of the UN Security Council. It should also consider if the Security Council as a whole should continue to exist if the United Nations is given the Security Council's powers in the proposed, and required, amendment.

The paper explains that Third World countries have begun to show an inclination toward improving the United Nations and its agencies, against the desire of the United States and Western states. This inclination, the paper says, is due to the fact that these states have, through their own experiences, discovered the futility of wagering on Washington and that the United States has reneged on the promises it made to these states to improve their financial and economic conditions in return for giving control over these matters to the Americans.

The paper adds: There are justifications for the campaign against the United Nations and the UN Security Council. The United Nations gave its flag to the U.S. troops in the Korean War. It also allowed the Americans and Westerners to use its name to stage aggression against Iraq and dictate U.S. terms on it and to impose a political, military, economic, and cultural siege.

The paper adds: The United Nations, which took part in the invasion of the Congo and the assassination of Lumumba, is the same United Nations that is now fighting in Somalia and seeking the head of Mohamed Farah Aidid, promising, like a sheriff in an American Western movie, a reward for anyone who brings him in, dead or alive.

The paper adds: The UN Security Council resolutions cannot remain unrepresentative of the majority. Nor can they remain exempted from appeal or revocation by a judicial committee that has the powers to protect UN member states against resolutions imposed from above by an international institution set up when the world was made up of markets and zones of influence for the old colonialist powers.

The paper adds: People whom imperialism thought it had subjugated through terrorism and starvation have begun to recover from the shock and regain their equilibrium to resume, with greater determination, their struggle against foreign aggression and interference in their domestic affairs.

The paper adds: The effects of the struggle of peoples in the three continents against the old and new colonialists will move to inside the United Nations and the Security Council. That struggle will make it difficult for the imperialists to pursue in the future the policy of arrogance that they are now pursuing. It will also be difficult to imagine the UN Charter remaining the way it was when it first emerged after the end of World War II in 1945.

The paper concludes its report by saying: The world will not allow the United Nations to end up like the League of Nations. However, it will not be surprised if the current "policy of the League of Nations" leads to the same result among the capitalist countries, represented by war among these countries.

Arab MK Meets Officials Ahead of 'Arafat Talks

TA2107152193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah will travel to Tunis this weekend for a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. Darawshah said that in anticipation of his trip, he held meetings with senior government officials. MK Darawshah told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that, among others, he spoke with the U.S. ambassador in Israel.

Our correspondent notes that Darawshah hopes to take along a Knesset member from the coalition. He prefers, however, not to divulge his name at this point.

Rabin Says Talks With PLO Not Authorized

TA2207105093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 93 p 7

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] The reports concerning direct contacts between the prime minister's envoys and PLO figures derive from government elements who wish to condition public opinion and make the PLO a "kosher" partner for talks with Israel. This is the opinion of Prime Minister Rabin, which is shared by his closest advisers. Rabin reached this conclusion in the wake of recent reports which became increasingly frequent despite denials issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

In closed circles, Rabin explained in recent days that he had authorized no one to converse with the PLO on his behalf, and that the reports on this issue are absolutely baseless. All the reported "intermediaries" and "envoys" to talks with the PLO are in touch with that organization in any case, but they were not authorized to mediate between the sides.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser, for instance, occasionally meets with PLO leaders to brief them on details of conversations with Israeli decision-makers. This is a well-known and publicized fact, but it in no way indicates that al-Baz is either an envoy or a mediator between Israel and the PLO.

Knesset Member Darawshah, who is due to travel to Tunis over the weekend, met on 20 July with Eytan Haber, director general of the prime minister's bureau, and requested that Rabin convey a message to PLO leaders in Tunis. Haber told him that the prime minister did not intend to use Darawshah's services, and that he wished to convey no message. "Perhaps he should reconsider it," Darawshah insisted, but Haber's negative reply was unequivocal. [passage omitted]

[A page-5 report by Pinhas 'Inbari in Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 22 July cites "several high-level Israeli sources:" "Israel and the PLO exchanged clarifications on various political matters but failed to achieve anything, and at present, there is no Israeli-PLO channel of communication." According to the sources, "Rabin was impressed by the fact that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat forced the Palestinian delegation to attend the Washington talks two months ago, and in the wake of that, informal contacts were held with 'Arafat with Rabin's knowledge."

[The report adds that having ascertained that 'Arafat rejects the Israeli points for discussion, "Rabin reached the conclusion that he had nothing left to discuss with 'Arafat and there was no point in meeting him."]

Peres on Chances for Progress in Peace Talks

TA2207072093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] The road to peace is being paved with a great deal of suffering—as you know full well—and true to that sad philosophy, the U.S. document of principles no longer exists. Are we, like the snail crawling up the column, taking one step forward and two steps back?

[Peres] I would compare it more to a paper ship than a snail. I think we were overjoyed about paper vessels in these oceans of formulations and papers because it was obvious that the more we draft formulations, the more we raise the differences existing between us and the other side. That is precisely what has happened. Therefore, the paper should be a narrow bridge, but we should also address the other sides of the negotiations—mainly the economic angle—and take into account the situation on the ground, such as the Gaza Strip.

[Friedman] I ask you who they are, and you tell me what they are.

[Peres] The side is not who, but also what, whether you look left or right, and not only people.

[Levi] Is the new U.S. paper vessel, which is not yet navigating in Syrian waters, aimed at appeasing the Palestinians, who were not pleased with the earlier paper? Will there be some shift in the direction of the Palestinians in the new paper?

[Peres] I think that what should be done is to use two instruments. A pen and a pocket calendar. With the pen we have to sign everything agreed upon, with the calendar we have to postpone things not agreed upon to a later date. That is in reference to the written aspect. That is because any paper we will draft, which for example touches on Jerusalem, will raise differences which cannot be bridged. I must say, taking into consideration the condition of the Palestinians, that for the first time they also have a public opinion. The Jerusalem issue, rather than serving as a bridge between the sides, serves as a declaration by all negotiators to those who sent him. We are entrenched in our positions on Jerusalem, and

the Palestinians want to show that they are also entrenched and that nothing will come out of it. Therefore, we have to sign what is agreed upon and postpone as far as possible the points on which agreement has not been reached.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, 'Aqiva Eldar in today's HA'ARETZ quotes Jerusalem political sources as telling him that the United States has called on Israel to avoid changing its policy toward the PLO at this stage since the Americans want to put off the resumption of the dialogue with that organization as an enticement to the Palestinians to sign the new document of principles. Is Israel ready but being held back from possible negotiations with the PLO?

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 July pages A1, and 10 carries the 'Aqiva Eldar report in which he writes: "Jerusalem political sources said yesterday that the U.S. team headed by Dennis Ross reached the conclusion that the chances of convincing the Palestinians to support the latest documents have become nil, therefore it decided to work on a new formulation that will bypass the main issues in dispute: the future of Jerusalem and the autonomy's area of jurisdiction. The sources added that the Americans called on Israel to avoid at this stage changing its policy toward the PLO since the United States wants to keep the resumption of the dialogue with that organization as bait to the Palestinians to sign the new document of principles."]

[Peres] I do not know about any such American appeal. There might have been one. I think that we should not recognize the PLO before we know what we have in common. I think the problem now is not with whom we talk—since there is somebody to talk with—but how to bridge the differences that have surfaced.

[Friedman] If you find there is no other way to advance the negotiations with the Palestinians, but to talk directly with PLO-Tunis, could that then be a option?

[Peres] I would immediately give IDF Radio an interview if that happened. You cannot call on me for such commitments, I would not be able carry such a heavy burden of commitments.

[Levi] That is enough of a commitment for us. A Labor Knesset member [MK] is due to leave for a meeting with 'Arafat, according to MK 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, but that MK has so far not identified himself. Does he have somebody to be afraid of?

[Peres] He does not have anybody to be afraid of, and he has nothing to contribute. It is definitely a superfluous trip. It might be good for headlines and to draw some attention, but it has no operational importance. What exists or is missing between us and Tunis is not an airline ticket to Tunis, not even a return ticket. What we need is to find common ground and not a seat on an aircraft.

Hogg Says UK Supports U.S. Role in Negotiations

Reaffirms Stance to Peres, Beilin

TA2107162093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Douglas Hogg, Britain's minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Israel, said that Britain was not interested in its own peace initiatives for the Middle East and was content supporting U.S. activity in this field. Hogg nevertheless expressed the belief that Britain could greatly contribute to narrowing differences between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab states. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Douglas Hogg, the British minister of state for foreign affairs, who met today with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, sought to explain to his Israeli hosts that he had brought no new proposals to promote the peace process and that contrary to reports published prior to his visit, he had no intention of proposing new ideas to the parties.

[Hogg, in English] I have not come with any new proposals at all. Indeed, I have tried to make the point that our role is to support the American....

[Gutman begins voiceover translation of above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Hogg said: I have tried to make the point that our role is to support the American initiatives in the peace process. Nevertheless, when we discuss the U.S. text with the Palestinians and the Israelis, we can contribute by proposing modifications or by presenting the text in a new light.

Douglas Hogg also supported the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and noted that he had heard support for this proposal from both parties. When the British minister was asked what he could propose to the Israelis and the Palestinians in order to promote the peace process, he replied that the parties should hasten their efforts, because the opportunity will not last forever.

[Hogg, in English] I think that the window is probably rather a narrow one, and therefore I say to the Palestinians that I very much hope that they will be able to subscribe to the declaration of principles and then get down to....

[Gutman begins voiceover translation of above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Hogg said that he very much hoped that the Palestinians would accept the U.S. declaration of principles and then move on to concentrate on early empowerment. As for the Israelis, Hogg proposed that they make it clear to the Palestinians that they were committed to reaching a permanent arrangement on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 21 July reports that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today met with Douglas Hogg, the British minister of state for foreign affairs, and through him, asked the European countries to allocate 5 percent of their foreign aid to the territories." Qol Yisra'el adds that "in a working session with the British minister, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that after Israel and the Palestinians had signed a joint statement of principles and implemented the early empowerment of the Palestinians in the territories, both parties could then move on to discuss the permanent arrangement. Shim'on Peres and Yosi Beilin both categorically rejected the possibility of any compromise on Jerusalem." Qol Yisra'el also noted that "at the end of the meeting, Douglas Hogg called on the Palestinians to defer the debate over Jerusalem till after the interim accords."]

Meets With al-Husayni

TA2107182293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg met at the Palestinian delegation headquarters in East Jerusalem with a number of Palestinian figures, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, who returned to the country two days ago. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that during the meeting the Palestinian figures raised the issues of the peace process, the security siege, and human rights in the territories. The meeting was attended by Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sami al-Kilani, Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, and two representatives from the Palestinian opposition to the peace process, Dr. Riyad al-Maliki and Dr. Muhammad Jadallah.

Urges Acceptance of Interim Plan

NC2107163893 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, July 21 (AFP)—British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg on Wednesday [21 July] backed the United States by urging the Palestinians to accept limited autonomy and set aside the Jerusalem question for the time being.

"I say to the Palestinians subscribe to the document of principles and then agree to an interim (autonomy) stage in the near future which will actually enable them to take control to a very high degree of their own fate," Hogg said.

The Palestinians have rejected the American document because it suggests the status of annexed East Jerusalem should not be raised until at least the third year of autonomy, in line with Israeli views.

"It's a mistake to start with the most difficult subject," Hogg told reporters after talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his deputy Yosi Beilin.

Britain offered no new ideas, he admitted, calling for compromises on both sides. "The window of opportunity" to make peace may remain open only a short time, Hogg warned.

"Our real desire is to support the American peace process. American leadership is critical," the minister said before meeting Palestinian leaders, including Faysal al-Husayni.

Al-Husayni noted Britain could help push forward the process. "We are facing real problems and we need the help of other parties."

Hogg's views earned a frosty reception in Gaza on Tuesday when he saw Palestinian representatives. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said: "The meeting was a waste of time.

"Britain can only encourage the two sides to make peace and not interfere in the process and let the Americans get on with it," 'Abd-al-Shafi said. [passage omitted]

Rabin Urges Increased Jordanian Role

TA2107195693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening held a meeting with Douglas Hogg, Britain's minister of state for foreign affairs. Mr. Rabin said Israel is interested in a strong and independent Jordan under Hashemite rule. Mr. Rabin also said that Jordan can fulfill a more active role in the negotiations with the Palestinians. The prime minister complained about the fact that Britain is not involved in the plans for investing funds in the territories. According to Rabin, the Arab states are also not helping the Palestinians in the economic sphere.

Mr. Hogg expressed the hope that the visit of the U.S. secretary of state to our region would facilitate the peace talks.

Egyptian Envoy Delivers Mubarak Message to Rabin

TA2107185393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Former Egyptian prime minister Dr. Mustafa Khalil arrived in Israel today to attend an economic symposium sponsored by MA'ARIV. Dr. Khalil delivered a personal letter from President Husni Mubarak to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. In this letter, the Egyptian president expresses his support for the efforts to achieve peace and his willingness to help in these efforts.

Prime Minister Rabin and Dr. Khalil met in the prime minister's office for less than an hour. The meeting was mainly devoted to economic issues. The guest evinced interest, among other things, in the ways in which Israel intends to use the U.S. guarantees. Dr. Khalil said that the lesson to be learned from the Israeli-Egyptian peace

talks is that one must never despair, and that the negotiations are bound to end in success:

[Begin Khalil recording, in English] Well, you know that each side has its difficulties, and I know that the Israelis have their own difficulties. Also, some of the Arab negotiators have their own difficulties, but a negotiation itself is very important. And keeping, you know, the momentum of the negotiations is also very important, and one should never really feel—and I say that from my own experience, when I was negotiating with the Israelis—that we always considered that any difficulties should never really stop the negotiations and that there would be a solution to any problem. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Head of Christian Community in Gaza Detained

TA2207085593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Masked men last night shot dead Faraj al-Kariri, 25, of the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He was apparently killed after being suspected of helping the authorities. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that security forces last night detained Wafa' Sayir, 60, head of the Christian community in Gaza. Our correspondent notes that he is identified with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and that his son was shot dead several months ago, apparently due to a dispute inside that organization.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for Official Visit to Greece

TA2207073393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin left on an official visit to Greece today. This is the first official visit by a senior Israeli official since the two countries established full diplomatic relations three years ago. In Dr. Beilin's entourage are senior officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Tourism, and Energy and Infrastructure. The Israeli delegation will participate in the biennial discussions of the Israeli-Greek joint committee. The deputy minister will confer with the Greek prime minister, the foreign minister, and the opposition leader.

Al-Hariri: Government Preoccupied With South

NC2107201693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister al-Hariri today discussed with the officers of the Staff and Command College for the Army and Public Security Forces the escalating situation in southern Lebanon in light of Israeli reinforcements and threats. Prime Minister al-Hariri said that the south is the preoccupation of the government and that the Israeli occupation is like poison in the body. He repeated that Lebanon entered the negotiations to liberate itself from the Israeli occupation. He added: The negotiations could succeed, but they could also fail. We are preparing ourselves to face both possibilities. We have as our primary objective strengthening all the armed forces, without exception. He pointed out that the role of these forces is to establish legitimacy, give citizens confidence, and preserve the authority of the state everywhere. He drew attention to the fact that everyone knows how the country was and what it has become. He concluded: We hope to be in better shape in the future.

Security Council Asked To Renew UNIFIL Mandate

NC2207062293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Lebanon has officially asked the UN Security Council to extend the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] mandate for a new term beginning 1 August.

The request was contained in a message addressed to the Security Council by Ambassador Khalil Mikkawi, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations. He said the Lebanese Government decided to ask the Security Council to extend the mandate, which expires on 31 July, for another six months.

In his message, Mikkawi said positive developments have helped to speed security, peace, and stability in Lebanon since the last extension of the UNIFIL mandate. He said the UNIFIL command and the Lebanese Army still coordinate their efforts in complete harmony for the sake of deploying the army throughout the south up to the international border.

Ambassador Mikkawi dealt with Israel's policies and practices carried out against Lebanon despite the ongoing bilateral peace negotiations. He said the daily acts of violence in the south are the fruit of Israel's occupation, adding that as long as Israel continues its occupation, war operations and bloodshed will continue on Lebanon's national soil and the Lebanese people will perform their legal right of resistance either individually or collectively against the occupation, according to the UN Charter, until Israel withdraws its forces as stipulated in Resolution 425.

In his message, Mikkawi said: We emphasize that the UN Security Council, particularly its five permanent members, are responsible for implementing all resolutions. He said Lebanon calls on the Security Council to ensure its resolutions are honored and implemented.

Israelis Reportedly Withdraw Reinforcements

NC2107212693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] REUTER has cited security sources as saying that Israel withdrew today most of the military reinforcements it had sent to the occupied security strip. The sources added that around 60 military vehicles crossed the borders and returned to Israel.

Commenting on this report, independent security sources in the south denied that there is any information that confirms or denies this withdrawal.

Resistance Regains Position; Fighting Continues

NC2207105993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The indiscriminate Israeli bombardment of residential areas in the south today left many people dead or wounded. The shelling badly damaged cars and houses.

Resistance men responded by attacking five positions manned by enemy and Agent troops. The resistance regained the Bi'r Kallab position and destroyed the 'Aramta barracks and the Israeli communications post in Jazzin.

According to the latest reports from the south, fierce fighting is raging between the resistance men and the Israelis and the shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah is continuing.

Israeli Soldier Reported Killed in Hizballah Attack

NC2207115693 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, July 22 (AFP)—An Israeli soldier was killed Thursday [22 July] during attacks by pro-Iranian Hizballah guerrillas in the "security zone" in south Lebanon, military sources said.

Two members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army were wounded and a third was reported missing in the fighting in the Israeli occupied bufier zone, the sources said.

India

Police Fire on Congress-I Supporters; 9 Killed

BK2107145493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] In West Bengal, nine persons were killed and 20 injured when police opened fire at three different places in Calcutta to control the demonstrating Youth Congress-I supporters today. Briefing newsmen, the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, said 59 policemen, including senior police officials, have been injured in the brickbatting and bomb throwing by the agitators. So far 269 persons have been arrested. Describing the incident as unfortunate, the chief minister held Congress-I leadership responsible for today's incident. The call for blockade of the Writers Building at Calcutta was given by the West Bengal Committee of Youth Congress-I demanding president's rule in the state for alleged failure of the rule of law and democratic traditions.

Death Toll Rises to 12

BK2207093493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The West Bengal Assembly was today adjourned twice amidst pandemonium over the demand of the opposition Congress-I for discussion on police firing yesterday in Calcutta. The speaker had to adjourn the house after it sat for half an hour when the Congress-I members rushed to the treasury benches. When the house met for the second time at 12 noon, it again witnessed uproarious scenes. A scuffle ensued between the members of the treasury bench and the opposition Congress-I. The speaker had to adjourn the house finally, until tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the death toll in yesterday's police firing in Calcutta on the Youth Congress-I demonstrators has gone up to 12, with three more succumbing to injuries. According to the police, 65 were injured in the incident.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ends Fast Following Talks

BK2107125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jaylalitha, has called off her four-day old fast a short while ago. She broke her fast at 1730 this evening by sipping a glass of fruit juice. The union water resources minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, was present on the occasion. Our Madras correspondent Vaitri Selvan reports that the decision follows her talks with Mr. V.C. Shukla. However, details of the talks between the two leaders are awaited.

It may be recalled that Miss Jaylalitha went on an indefinite fast on Sunday evening demanding implementation of the interim award of the Cauvery waters tribunal. Mr. V.C. Shukla was yesterday deputed by the prime minister to hold talks with both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu governments to defuse the situation.

Human Rights Allegations Against Army Rejected

BK2107091793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The judge advocate general, Major General A.C. Mangla, has described as baseless the propaganda in Western countries about the violation of human rights by the Army. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, he described the charge as a real myth with a lot of exaggeration. Referring to the Army's role in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab in aid of the civil administration, General Mangla asserted that the Army has a real difficult task when it deals with its own people. He said that the Army gives due respect to the rights of the people, and detailed investigations are carried out before taking disciplinary action against the guilty, ensuring that no defaulter remains unpunished. He said that in Assam 560 cases were filed against the Army in the civil courts during the last three years. Out of 524 cases decided so far, only 12 cases have gone against the Army, that too, for minor offences. Replying to questions, he said no such cases have been filed in the civil courts in Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Pentagon Report on Security Forces, Terrorism Lauded

BK2107051093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Commentary by K.G. Jogleker]

[Text] In a recent report, the Pentagon has praised the Indian security forces for their human rights record in handling the terrorist menace. Unlike the civilian department, a professional organization like the Pentagon fully realizes the difficulties that the security forces anywhere face in fighting an enemy who operates under different garbs and takes recourse to all kinds of subterfuges to gain its ends. Security forces fight with one hand tied. On one hand, they have to be alert to foil the activities of the terrorists. On the other, they have to be careful that innocent persons are not harassed or innocent lives lost.

In the case of the Indian security forces, the problem is further compounded because Pakistan has been openly helping the terrorists, firstly in Punjab and now in Kashmir. The terrorists have been indulging in arson, murder, and kidnapping in an attempt to terrorize the people into subjugation and to keep them away from normal political activity. Normalcy has returned to Punjab and conditions in Kashmir valley are slowly but surely improving. Like Punjab, an elected government may soon take over there.

The extent of terrorist activity and the menace that it poses is borne out by some figures. Last year, 1,909 innocent people were killed by terrorists. Three years

ago, the number was only 89 and has sharply risen in subsequent years. As many as 11,000 sophisticated weapons have been recovered by the security forces from the terrorists. The terrorists have been particularly hard on politicians, intellectuals, and government officials because these are the segments of society which can lead the people and help in restoring normalcy. Wherefrom did the terrorists get these sophisticated weapons. Pakistan has never made a secret of its involvement in spreading terrorism in the Indian states bordering Pakistan. Now one wishes that while appreciating the record of the Indian security forces in respecting human rights, the United States would use its considerable influence on Islamabad and persuade it to abstain from spreading terrorism which claimed more than 4,000 lives in Kashmir alone during the last four years.

Well-meaning activists of the human rights cause are frequently taken in by the claims of the terrorists, accept figures given by them, criticize the security forces, and knowingly or unknowingly turn a blind eye to the activities of the terrorists. The Pentagon report, to some extent, restores the balance. Not many might have noticed another encouraging development. A group of Kashmiri Muslims in Great Britain this week released a book which pointed out that the Pakistan Government had manipulated the Kashmir problem in order to cover its own shortcomings at home. The book said that Indian security forces, who have been in Kashmir since 1947, had been protecting the lives of the people in sharp contrast to what the Pakistani forces have done in the area of the state illegally occupied by them.

First Joint Commission Meeting With Kazakhstan 21 Jul

BK2107153893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The first meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Commission began in New Delhi today. It is co-chaired by the minister of agriculture, Mr. Balram Jakhar, and the Kazakh deputy prime minister and the minister for science and new technologies, Mr. G.A. Abilsiitov. The Joint Commission discussed cooperation in various fields, including petrol and hydrocarbons, education, and commerce. The two sides also showed interest in cooperation in agricultural research and in science and technology. Four subcommittees on trade and commerce, including industrial collaboration, agriculture, science and technology, and hydrocarbons were formed. The meeting of the Joint Commission is the follow up of the meeting between the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and President Nazarbayev in May this year.

Iran

Velayati Receives Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2107153693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] A meeting was held today between Afghanistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Shams and Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati. The two sides reviewed the latest developments in Afghanistan, regional issues, and ways of expanding their relations.

During the meeting, the Afghan deputy foreign minister pointed out that regional states can take preliminary steps to solve regional problems if they cooperate and focus on finding solutions to the problems.

Mr. Velayati also referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, which concentrates on the expansion of relations with neighboring countries and the establishment of peace and security in the region, and stressed our country's readiness to help Afghanistan solve its problems.

Shams on Tajikistan Developments

LD2107191393 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Jalil Shams said here today that the absence of a political understanding between the various groups and a craving for monopolistic seizure of political power among rivals were the main causes for the continuing crisis in that country.

He commented that the mentality, with the governments as well as individuals, that does not tolerate opposition is very common not only in Afghanistan but also in all other oriental countries.

Such mentality was the root cause for increasing clashes between the poles of power in that part of the world.

The visiting Afghan official that was addressing a group of political experts on Afghanistan here Wednesday, said if the present situation in his country were to continue, it would lead to the creation of independent local governments relying on local mass support.

He said that if local administrations were to be created in an orderly manner, they would pave the way for the creation of a national government capable of ensuring both national security and economic rehabilitation of the state.

Shams rejected the likelihood of the political dismemberment of his country in the event the unrest continues. The dismemberment would necessitate the annexation of the so-called autonomous local governments to neighboring foreign governments with a subordinate status to those governments, he added. He said no Afghan leader would be willing to live as a second class citizen of another state, therefore the probability of dismemberment was nil.

Shams said elsewhere in his address that he deplored the presence of Russian troops across the borders of Tajikistan and Afghanistan as "a grave mistake for Yeltsin." He said clashes in Tajikistan were a consequence solely

of internal strife between Tajiks, and stressed that his country was not to blame for the unhappy developments in that country.

Shams said Tajik immigrants cross the border to Afghanistan in response to their personal feelings and due to their cultural identity with the Afghan people, and that Afghanistan was unable to check the wave of the incoming Tajiks.

He expressed hope that the present misunderstandings between Afghanistan and Tajikistan would be solved in the forthcoming meeting of the heads of state of Uzbekistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Asked for his comment on an eventual involvement in Afghanistan of the United Nations in response to continued clashes between rival groups in that country Shams he said it would be unwise of the U.N. to contemplate involvement in Afghanistan without a previous implicit agreement with leaders of rival groups.

Border Market Project With Turkmenistan Inspected

LD2107191193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The vice president of Turkmenistan today inspected a plan for building a joint border market between Iran and Turkmenistan. Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, the Iranian minister of roads and transport, and a number of that ministry's officials and the head of the Iranian Customs were present during the inspection.

The roads and transport minister announced Iran's readiness to complete the joint border market project. [passage omitted]

The Iran-Turkmenistan border market will play an important role in the economy of the border inhabitants of Iran and Turkmenistan in the future.

* Ambassadorial Post to Uzbekistan Announced

93LA0113A Tehran SALAM in Persian 28 Jun 93 p 2

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's special ambassador to Uzbekistan has been appointed. Yesterday, Sunday, the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs introduced Mr. Mohammad Hashemi-Golpaigani to the president of the republic as special ambassador and fully empowered representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and he was approved by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced: In a separate order by Mr. Vahaji, minister of commerce, Mr. 'Abbas Zarifian-Shahriar was appointed executive director and responsible member of the board of directors of the Commercial Offices Corporation.

Joint Iran-Turkey Security Committee To Meet

LD2107142393 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—The 6th session of the Joint Iran-Turkey Security Committee is to be held in the immediate future. The convening of the session was agreed upon in a meeting here Wednesday [21 July] between Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Korumaz Haktanir and First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati. The two also discussed issues relevant to mutual relations and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and underlined the need for mutual cooperation in various fields.

Referring to propaganda and improper stance taken by certain Turkish officials and press on the alleged illegal activities on Irano-Turkish border, Besharati reiterated "we are against creating crisis for any country."

Besharati pointed to the traditional historical relations between the two Muslim neighbors and said in solving its problems the Ankara government can count on the Islamic Republic. The Turkish diplomat emphasized the importance of expanding Tehran-Ankara ties and foiling attempts of elements who try to hinder promotion of bilateral relations.

The Irano-Turkish joint security committee holds a session every three months in both countries alternately.

Bosnian Ambassador Warns Against Partition Plan

LD2107132293 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—Bosnian ambassador to Tehran Omer Behmen on Wednesday [21 July] warned that partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina will result in continued bloodshed in the Balkan region. Allowing bullies to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina is like giving a green light to other aggressors to conquer other countries by deploying their military power, Behmen told IRNA.

The ambassador appealed to international organizations and Islamic countries to try to help implement the U.N. resolutions, which he described as nicely worded but ineffective.

Behmen said the plan proposed by Serbian and Croatian leaders to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina was aimed at destroying Muslims's independence and their right to self-determination.

The ambassador, saying that the Bosnian Serbs are in no way committed to international and human principles, accused Russia, Britain and France of allowing the Serbs to annihilate the Muslims of the republic. The prolongation of clashes in Bosnia-Herzegovina is aimed at annihilating Muslims as an entity and government in Europe,

he said, adding that the partition plan which the international circles wanted to impose on Bosnian Muslims intended to delay their destruction.

He blamed the ethnic cleansing being perpetrated by Serbs on the arms embargo imposed on the Bosnian government by the U.N. and the European Community. He made it clear that according to the plan on partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bosnian Muslims will get only 10 percent of the republic's territory which means the end of their sovereignty and their settlement in a large human camp.

DPRK Envoy Denies Negotiations With Israel

LD2107144293 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to Tehran, Choi Yong-no, here Wednesday [21 July] categorically dismissed the reports on alleged negotiations between DPRK and the Zionist regime.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, he said that efforts of his country's officials were focused on expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Velayati said that Tehran-Pyongyang relations have been friendly and that the two countries are taking steps to broaden the existing relations despite the enemies' propaganda.

Commentary Urges Strategy Toward U.S. 'Weak Points'

NC2107142893 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 93 p 2

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "The United States: Levers and Policies"]

[Text] The future stance of the United States on Iran is one of the major topics to attract the attention of domestic and world political circles recently.

The rapid pace of international developments and efforts by powerful countries to achieve their desired objectives in forming the new world order, which became visible at the G-7 summit in Tokyo, only paint part of the picture and to clarify the point further, recent U.S. efforts—from the world conference on human rights to the G-7 summit—must be studied.

1. From the moment the United States made specific proposals at the Vienna conference on human rights concerning the position of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and setting out punishments for countries that—in Washington's point of view—do not respect human rights (!), it very clearly showed that it intends to pressure countries like Iran.

Undoubtedly, human rights will gain a particular position in the legal power structure. Developments in international relations and the efforts that each power is exerting in international politics to gain a better position will all affect international law in general and the United Nations in particular. Officials of Iran's Human Rights Committee should know: If we cannot enjoy our own rights and observe our own culture in the issue of human rights and if we cannot make the world accept that human rights should be assessed on the basis of the criteria and culture of each country, we will soon face numerous problems.

When it comes to human rights, as much as real international cooperation is necessary, surrendering to the overt political rancor underlying this issue can cause a lot of trouble for countries like ours.

The United States has realized that limiting human rights to an internal UN committee will never let it use the issue as a lever for further use in the new world order. In the propaganda concerning countries that the United States considers to be violators of human rights, the names of Iran and China and of Iraq and Libya are included. It is interesting that countries like Syria are gradually being erased from the list. And in tandem with this propaganda, it is not without reason that Iran is also portrayed as opposing progress in the [Middle East] peace talks.

Stating these points in the circumstances may be considered a prejudgment. But the truth is that the issue of "human rights" is finding a special position in the legal power structure and we have no alternative but to have an independent, alert, and firm approach to this issue.

Let us not forget that at the world conference on human rights in Tehran 25 years ago [as published], the most important topic was the Human Rights Charter's being a "liberal legal system" that conforms only with the culture of Western countries. Naturally, if these Western countries have the right to impose their culture and their criteria on other countries within the framework of the United Nations, then the remainder of the countries also reserve the same right for themselves.

In the world conference in Vienna the same topic was raised again and U.S. complaints about the outcome of the session and this issue being turned over to the UN General Assembly clearly showed Washington was unsuccessful in its efforts and we should seize this opportunity and do our best to draft a law under which we can better maneuver.

2. To clarify that it is trying to limit and ultimately coordinate Iran and other countries like us in the new world order, the United States resorts to military actions that are specifically of a political nature.

If we ponder the subtle points in the mode and timing of the U.S. military attack on Baghdad, we can see the propaganda and political characteristics of this attack as far as Iran is concerned.

First of all, the attack took place when there was no one at Baghdad's intelligence center. Therefore, the attack by the cruise missiles resulted in the least number of casualties. This shows that the United States feared the political and social repercussions that a large number of casualties would have, at least at this juncture.

Second, the United States justifies its military attack by citing Article 52 of the UN Charter. This article authorizes safeguarding the lives of the high-ranking political officials of a country when they are outside the borders of their country! But Bush was an ordinary citizen when he was attacked. Therefore, the lack of justification for the U.S. military attack is so obvious that there is no need for any explanation apart from the fact that we should be confident that the United States was trying to flaunt its military strength.

Third, with this attack the United States expected to be able to pave the way to impose its views on the G-7 summit and to increase the possibilities for more political and economic pressures on Iran.

But the approaches by Europe and Japan during the G-7 summit and, ultimately, the not-so-harsh tone of the session clearly showed that the United States seriously failed to impose its political and economic demands concerning Iran.

The growing economic crisis that the United States is facing and the contradiction and weakness in its foreign policy approach on various crises, all of which have further intensified the criticism against the Democrats, have created problems for the United States in achieving its goals.

The conclusion drawn from all this is that in its approach toward the weak points of the Americans, Iran should continue to be decisive and alert and, by further understanding the international atmosphere, it should increase its maneuverability.

The perestroyka that the Americans expected to take place in countries like Iran after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union has yielded precisely the opposite results and we are now witnessing profound and extensive developments in the Western bloc and especially in the United States.

The situation in Europe after the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the formation of a united Germany definitely was not and is not to America's benefit. We should adopt a wise and alert stance vis- a-vis all these developments.

Strengthening regional relations and exhibiting a powerful presence in many international political conferences, as well as making a logical presentation of the Islamic Republic's views are all sensitive and vital issues which our foreign policy faces now. We should try to cross this juncture vigilantly.

Nepal

Communists Suspend 'Agitation' Following Natural Disaster

BK2107163093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, July 21 (AFP)—Nepal's seven communist factions have decided to suspend their agitation against the prime minister because of the natural disaster caused by massive flooding, a communist official said Wednesday [21 July].

The seven leftist factions, including the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), assured Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala that they were ready to cooperate in rebuilding the country.

The agitation, suspended for an as-yet undecided period, has included a general strike and street protests that led to violent clashes with security forces.

A NCP-UML source said the party had sent its activists and MPs to hard-hit areas to help in rescue operations after flooding that according to unofficial estimates had killed more than 300 people through Wednesday afternoon.

Both houses of parliament were prorogued until July 29 to enable the government to concentrate on rescue efforts and to reconstruct bridges and roads damaged and washed away by the floods.

The Kathmandu valley has been largely cut off from the outside world.

Meanwhile, Koirala called an all-party meeting for Thursday to discuss the situation and seek cooperation from the opposition.

The flash floods in the Trishuli and Narayani rivers, south and southwest of Kathmandu, were the first in some 50 years and also caused massive property damage.

Officials said 90 bodies had been recovered after the flooding and landslides provoked by it swept away 165 villagers in villages south of here.

Among those lost were seven Chinese technicians working on a landslide protection project. The officials said four of the Chinese were among the bodies recovered so far.

Pakistan

Reports on PRC Missile Deal Said 'Baseless'

BK2107142293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has denied reports about the supply of Chinese made missiles to Pakistan. The spokesman described these reports as baseless and without any substantive evidence. He

said both Pakistan and China have already dismissed stories and rumors about such a supply, adding that Pakistan's position on the issue is very clear. There is no basis for reaching such a conclusion.

Indian Operations in Kashmir Seen 'Escalating'

BK2107145793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Pakistan has expressed grave concern over the escalating army operations in the occupied Kashmir. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said there are reports that one Indian division is in the process of being inducted into Indian-held Kashmir and another division is ready to move. He said we fear that the intensity of military operations will further increase and atrocities against innocent Kashmiris and human rights violations will escalate. The spokesman said between 20 to 30 people are being killed daily in occupied Kashmir by Indian troops, which is further aggravating the situation.

Reports from occupied Kashmir speak of continued clashes between mojahedin and the Indian troops. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], several Indian troops were killed in an encounter with mojahedin in Kupwara. Mojahedin suffered three casualties. According to the agency, six Indian troops were killed when mojahedin launched a hand grenade attack on Indian troops in Anantnag-Islamabad. A number of convoys carrying Indian troops and their installations in Kupwara and Anantnag-Islamabad, were also damaged by mojahedin. A large number of women staged a sit-in in the (Mehsama) area of Srinagar. They were protesting against Indian troops forcing their entry into houses to arrest youths. Clashes during house-to-house searches have also been reported from Baramula, Pulwama, and Sopor.

The Indian police chief in occupied Kashmir, Mr. B.S. Bedi, has contradicted reports alleging that foreign mercenaries have infiltrated into the valley to help mojahedin in their freedom struggle. Talking to newsmen in Srinagar, he described the report as grossly exaggerated. For some time past, the Indian press has been publishing reports which quoted the official Indian sources claiming a large-scale infiltration and arrests of foreign mercenaries in occupied Kashmir. Mr. B.S. Bedi said that there is no evidence to support the claims being dished out in the Indian media.

Daily Alleges Mosad Has 'Free Hand' in Kashmir

BK2107115393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jul 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Focus on Kashmir: Need To Launch a Renewed Drive"]

[Text] This year's Kashmir Accession Day on July 19, propitiously coincided with the resolution of domestic political crisis which had gripped the country since early this year and which had threatened the Kashmir issue to be relegated into the background. The Day came close on the heels of the US decision not to press the terrorist charge against Pakistan due also to the fact that New Delhi had failed to substantiate its allegations that Pakistan was sponsoring terrorism in the Indian occupied Kashmir. A day after Pakistan was off hooked of the terrorism charge, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Ms Robin Raphel in her testimony before US Foreign Relations Committee said what must be sweet music to the Kashmiri people. She said that Kashmir was a "disputed territory" whose final status has yet to be determined. What is even more important she also conceded that Pakistani was a party to the dispute alongwith India and the Kashmir people—a position which Islamabad has consistently maintained.

Almost simultaneously India has stepped up its repression of the Kashmiri people. There are reports published in the Indian press about the hiring of Mosad (Israel Secret Service) agents by New Delhi to help Indian commandos crack down on the freedom-fighters. Reports say that Mosad agents have been given a free hand to identify freedom fighters, track down their hideouts and shoot them on the spot. They have been given one month to complete the job. Fresh curbs have been imposed on the local press by the state authorities amid reports that chemical weapons have been used against the people. The beleaguered Rao government has still not given up on its drive to have Pakistan declared a terrorist state, hoping that the sword of Damocles has been removed from Pakistan only to help it tide over its domestic political crisis and to discourage a military take over.

Ms Raphel's testimony before the House Foreign Relations Committee and the State Department's decision to absolve Pakistan of the terrorism charge, for whatever reasons, open up new possibilities on Kashmir which must be vigorously pursued by the Foreign Office. If Pakistan has been given a clean chit then what is happening in the occupied Kashmir is clealry a serious human rights issue and not the result of some foreign sponsored terrorism. Is it then not natural to demand a thorough check up and x-ray of what India is doing in Kashmir and ask India to open up the valley to foreign observer? Moreover, if in the US perception Pakistan is a party to the dispute, what exception can be taken to our extending moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris? A party to a dispute is entitled even to use its material resources—more so when it is not accused of killing the Kashmiris.

Since the beginning of this year we have witnessed changing perceptions about Kashmir. First the US President Bill Clinton said in January last that the Kashmir dispute be settled in accordance with the "wishes of the Kashmiri people themselves". Then came British Prime Minister John Major's three-point peace plan for resolving the issue and even offering British mediatory role if the two countries so agreed. It was followed by some plain talk with Indian officials in May last by John Malott the Chief of South Asian bureau in the State

Department. Mr. Malott's offer to "help" India and Pakistan in finding a solution to the Kashmir problem, though deeply resented by India, is still on the cards as a major policy initiative.

In the post cold war era it is a major US policy objective in the region to prevent the outbreak of any war between the two major adversaries both of which are perceived as nuclear capable. Given this policy objective of the US, the ever growing *intifadah* in Kashmir, the mounting human rights violation in the state at the hands of Indian security forces and the changing perceptions of major world players it should not be difficult for the Foreign Office to launch a renewed drive to focus on Kashmir. The offers of mediation do offer a ray of hope to resolve the seemingly intractable problem.

Editorial Condemns U.S. Arrest of Egyptian Cleric

BK2107141393 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Jul 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Arrest of an Islamic Scholar"]

[Text] The U.S. authorities have arrested Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd- al-Rahman, an acclaimed Egyptian religious scholar and blind professor of Islamic Studies at an Egyptian university. He has been accused of being involved in the bomb explosions at the World Trade Center in New York. He has been performing his duties as an Islamic preacher at the Brooklyn Mosque for many years. Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd- al-Rahman's religious services have been recognized all over the world and he is one of those Islamic preachers who have been striving for the practical enforcement of Islam. His preachings were not acceptable to the government of his own country, Egypt, which banished him from the country in 1990. In the United States, too, he has been the target of negative propaganda from the Hindu and Jewish lobbies because of his efforts to propagate Islam.

After the World Trade Center bombing, the U.S. agencies first tried to implicate the Palestinians in the incident and then turned toward Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman because of their hostility against the Muslims. It is obvious that the U.S. Administration does not like to see fundamentalism growing in any Islamic country and that is why it is against every religious personality. The resurgence of Islam all over the world is now being interpreted as terrorism and the propagators of Islam are not being tolerated under any circumstances. The Jewish lobby works actively with others to defame them.

What is more regrettable is that the Egyptian Government itself has sided with the United States and reopened the case against Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in Egypt. He is being tried in connection with the allegation that he organized political demonstrations in his home town in 1989. Before his arrest in the United States, 'Abd-al-Rahman was on a parole in connection with the World Trade Center bombing case. But the U.S. media, under the patronage of the U.S. administration, had been carrying out hostile propaganda against Shaykh 'Umar and the Jewish and Hindu lobbies have been pressuring the U.S. authorities to arrest him, because these lobbies consider him as the biggest hurdle in the way of their proselytizing missions. The number of his followers in the Brooklyn Mosque was increasing day by day, and by arresting Shaykh 'Umar, the U.S. Administration has killed two birds with one stone—removed a successful propagator of Islam from his mission and justified its propaganda about Islamic fundamentalism by implicating Muslims in the bomb blasts. The most notable thing is that a scholar of the stature of Shaykh 'Umar, who has been recognized as an eminent Islamic preacher for years, has been presented to the world as a suspect in subversive activities. This is nothing but a conspiracy to malign Islam, which should be condemned by the entire Islamic world.

Spokesman on ICO Efforts for Peace in Bosnia

BK2107151293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The action plan adopted at the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] ministerial committee meeting in Islamabad recently has been transmitted to the UN secretary general for consideration as the official documents of Security Council and General Assembly. A Foreign Office spokesman, commenting on the follow-up action of the plan, said Pakistan's offer of 3,000 troops for the UN protection forces in Bosnia has also been formally communicated to the UN secretary general. The spokesman said the ICO is in the process of consultation with the five permanent members and other concerned capitals to arrange for the visit of the organization's ministerial mission in August to enhance efforts for an early cease- fire in Bosnia.

UN officials have said that Germany has decided to provide heavy equipment for the Pakistani troops who will join the United Nations protection force in former Yugoslavia. The equipment include armored personnel carriers and tanks.

Netherlands To Provide 700 Million Rupees in Aid

BK2107152093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Netherlands will provide over 700 million rupees for implementation of five projects in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Balochistan. An agreement to this effect was signed by Netherlands Ambassador Mr. A.F. Duyverman and Secretary General of Economic Affairs Division Mr. R.A. Akhund in Islamabad today. The amount will be utilized for the projects of social forestry in Malakand, Pak-Holland metal industries development, women's development, International Waterlogging and Salinity Research Institute, and the environmental schemes.

Official on 'Important Changes' in Election Rules

BK2107114593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Jul 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad—Some important changes have been made in the election rules to make the election process foolproof.

First, the presiding officers have been allowed to unofficiallly announce the results of their polling stations in the presence of the polling agents of contesting parties.

Previously, they were only authorised to issue authenticated copies of the records. The change has been made so that no contestant later says that results were manipulated while being taken to the returning officers, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice Naimuddin said Tuesday.

However, the consolidated results of every constituency will, as usual, be announced unofficially by the returning officers.

The second change is that the number of identity card will be written on the back of counter-foils of ballot papers.

The CEC told a group of reporters that Ms Benazir Bhutto's demand to hold elections to the national and provincial asemblies on the same day can be taken into consideration.

"We have to see whether or not it is constitutionally and legally posible and also look at its pros and cons," he said. Elections to the national and provincial assemblies are scheduled for October 6 and October 9 respectively.

But Justice Naimuddin made it clear that only the Election Commission was competent to change this schedule after consultations with the acting President and the caretaker Prime Minister. However, he said that polling to the national and provincial assemblies was never held on the same day (?in) the history of Pakistan.

To a question, the CEC said that elections will be conducted by political officials while troops will be deployed to maintain law and order and not for polling duty.

"Under the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Election Commission to hold fair, free and impartial polls."

When asked whether the Army will conduct elections, he asked the reporter to refer the question to those who are saying that the Army will do this job. In Sindh by-elections, he said the military authorities told the Commission that they will deploy troops only to tackle any law and order problem and nothing else.

The election schedule will be announced between August 20 and August 23. Those who have attained the age of voting can register themselves in the election role before the announcement of the election schedule.

Answering another question, the CEC who supervised the 1990 elections which were disputed by the People's Democratic Alliance said that allegations of riggings were based on some misunderstandings. "I say with utmost respect that those who levelled these allegations were misled. It is a human instinct that one accepts a negative thing easily."

He said as CEC he needed proof to establish the charge of rigging for which a legal procedure is clearly provided. A total of 146 election petitions were filed challenging the 1990 eletions. Of these 105 were rejected while one was accepted and that on technical grounds, he said emphasising that those elections were fair.

Justice Naimuddin said that it was for the government to amend election laws as demanded by some political leaders. However, he was of the opinion that the existing election law needed drastic improvement.

He said the (?condition) of showing identity card by the voter to the polling staff is necessary under the law and can be done away with only if the concerned law is repealed.

The CEC met the acting President and the caretaker Prime Minister [PM] on Tuesday and discussed election-related issues with them. He talked about immediate re-constitution of the Election Commission with the PM, which is a constitutional requirement.

Justice Naimuddin hoped that two members of the Commission will be appointed within the next four days which will complete its composition.

The government may decide to retain the two present members, Justice Bashir Jehangir and Justice Zia Mahmood Mirza, who were appointed after the dissolution of the National Assembly on April 18, he said.

To another question, the CEC said that the Commission will formulate a code of conduct as it did on the eve of 1990 elections. It will be finalised in consultations with politicians. He said the issue of newspaper advertisements aimed at character-assassination will be then examined.

He told a reporter that delimitation of constituencies is done only after the census has been carried out. It was last done in 1981. The process of deelimitation needs twelve to eighteen months to complete, he pointed out.

The CEC said he had accepted the challenge of holding elections which indeed is a marathon exercise. He further said that he has convened a meeting of provincial election commissioners which will be held within the next two days in Islamabad.

Commanders Conference Views Army Role in Elections

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[Text] A corps commanders conference was held at general headquarters today which was presided over by the chief of the Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed. Besides important professional matters, the conference reviewed the ongoing Operation Clean-Up in Sindh, the current flood situation, and the possible role of the Army in the forthcoming elections.